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Hafa Adai!

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THE CNMI'S FIRST DAILY NEWSPAPER

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IN A FIRST IN CNMI HISTORY

Agri lots on Pagan available

File photo shows a picture of Pagan Island in the Northern Islands. Applications for agricultural homesteads on the island of Pagan are now available.
CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

The Department of Public Lands announced yesterday that applications for agricultural homesteads on the island of Pagan are now available—the first time in CNMI history that agricultural homestead lots on Pagan are available for distribution.

There are a total of 88 agricultural homestead lots for distribution, consisting of 5,000 square meters each lot.

"This marks a historic step for DPL and for our community, as we are now giving residents the opportunity to own agricultural homestead lots on Pagan," said Gov. Ralph DLG Torres.

He praised DPL and its Homestead Division "for finally pushing this dream of many of our residents into realities.

"We look forward to the issuance date and seeing residents return to their ancestral lands," he added.

"This is a long time coming," said Lt. Gov. Arnold I. Palacios.

He said this will create the opportunity for Northern Island residents currently living on Saipan to resettle Pagan.

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WOMEN OF EXCELLENCE

Rizalina M. Liwag

By BEA CABRERA
beacabrerasaipan@gmail.com
CORRESPONDENT

Hopwood Middle School principal Rizalina M. Liwag was born to be an educator. She herself knew this even while still a child and under the care of her aunt, a school principal, in Biñan, Laguna in the Philippines.

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DPL negotiating with Fiesta, Hyatt

By JON PEREZ
jon_perez@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Negotiations are underway between the Department of Public Lands and two hotel properties that have expiring leases after Public Law 20-84 introduced a new regulation where publishing a request for proposal is no longer needed.

P.L. 20-84 also increases the terms of public land leases of up to 40 years plus an extension of 15 years for a total of 55 years. It also authorizes

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'Govt was current with CUC in FY 2018'

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
ferdie_delatorre@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Although the CNMI central government owes the Commonwealth Utilities Corp. $6.1 million in past due utility bills, it was current with its payments in fiscal year 2018 and is still making monthly payments to CUC.

Magofna

CUC acting chief financial officer Corina Magofna clarified this with the CUC board yesterday, saying that, by stating that the central government is past due for 12 months, that only

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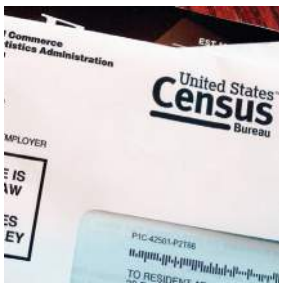

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Adding a citizenship question to the 2020 census "threatens our democratic system."
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Philippine authorities find more than 1,500 live turtles stuffed inside luggage.
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LIFE & STYLE
Taylor Swift says she turns off comments on social media to "block some of the noise."
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Local

DPS officer pleads not guilty to criminal mischief

A police officer has pleaded not guilty to criminal mischief after being accused of breaking the windows of gaming arcades.

Vinnie Saures Inos Jr., 22, pleaded not guilty to two counts of criminal mischief filed against him by the Commonwealth.

During his arraignment last Monday, Inos was represented by assistant public defendant Jean Nogues; assistant attorney general Robert Glass appeared for the government.

According to police, Inos broke the windows of Orchid and Rainbow poker parlors on Sept. 12, 2018. Inos was arrested shortly after. He posted a $500 bail. He was ordered to appear in court on Sept. 24, 2018.

At the Sept. 24, 2018 hearing, the Office of the Attorney General reportedly failed to file a criminal complaint against Inos so the hearing was rescheduled for Oct. 15, 2018. The OAG, again, failed to provide a written criminal complaint.

During the next hearing on Nov. 26, 2018, the court appointed the Public Defender's Office to represent Inos.

Inos, through Nogues, objected to a third adjournment, saying the court had no jurisdiction for lack of information.

On Nov. 28, 2018, the government filed the information charging Inos with two counts of criminal mischief.

Nogues requested the court dismiss the charges, but Glass objected.

On Jan. 28, 2019, Superior Court Presiding Judge Roberto Naraja denied the defense's motion to dismiss, but exonerated Inos' bail of $500. ***(Kimberly A. Bautista)***

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Forfeiture of defendant's money in birth tourism case is revoked

U.S. District Court for the NMI Chief Judge Ramona V. Manglona has granted a motion by the U.S. Attorney's Office to issue an order revoking her order last year that forfeited in favor of the U.S. government the $31,960 that was seized from a tourist who was sentenced to 12 months and one day in prison after being convicted of running an illegal business that offered trip packages to pregnant Chinese women seeking to give birth on Saipan.

In the U.S. government's motion for order rescinding a final order of forfeiture in the case against Sen Sun, assistant U.S. attorney Eric O'Malley said they inadvertently obtained the order without first obtaining a preliminary order of forfeiture.

O'Malley said the preliminary order of forfeiture is a prerequisite to publish notice—and publication necessary to notify third parties—of the government's intent to dispose of the properties.

He said the preliminary order of forfeiture and publication allow third parties to assert any interest they may have in the properties.

"This due process to third parties is required before the United States can have clear title to the properties," he said, adding that they will move for a preliminary order of forfeiture.

O'Malley said that, by pleading guilty in May 2018, Sun admitted, among other things, that he knowingly harbored illegal aliens.

O'Malley said by Sun's admission, the U.S. government has established the required nexus between the properties and the offense for which he has been found guilty.

Specifically, the prosecutor said, the U.S. government has established that the properties listed in the final order of forfeiture were proceeds of harboring illegal aliens—as charged in the indictment, or otherwise facilitated the commission of the crime.

Accordingly, he said, the properties are subject to forfeiture, pursuant to the U.S. Code.

On May 23, 2018, Manglona granted the U.S. government's motion for a final order of forfeiture.

In that order, Manglona ordered that Sun shall forfeit to the U.S. government the $8,541 that was seized upon his arrest and $23,419 that was confiscated during a search of his home.

On May 18, 2018, Sun, also known as Sam Sun, was sentenced in federal court to 12 months and one day in prison. He was given credit for the time he has already served in prison. ***(Ferdie de la Torre)***

MOCK TRIAL
Some of the participants in the 21st annual CNMI High School Mock Trial competition have their picture taken yesterday. The contest began yesterday, with five high schools across the CNMI arguing the fictitious case of *Justin Pangelinan v. ForensiTech, Inc.* The winner will represent the CNMI at the National Mock Trial competition in Athens, Georgia on May 16-18.

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Camacho willing to serve 2 more years as CUC chief

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
ferdie_delatorre@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Commonwealth Utilities Corp. executive director Gary P. Camacho said yesterday he is willing to serve another two years at the helm of the utilities company.

"Do I want to continue another two years? I would love to do it…of the opportunity to help and expand the efforts to make a better program for our consumers," Camacho said.

He said being the executive director is a great opportunity to help the community and CUC employees.

"We were one time doing a lot of crisis management. Today is different. We're having that greater structure at the management level," he said.

Camacho's contract will expire this Tuesday, March 12. The CUC board of directors discussed his contract during an executive session last Tuesday. The directors will continue their meeting today, Friday, at 1pm.

In February 2017, U.S. District Court for the NMI designated Judge David O. Carter approved Camacho's appointment as executive director.

Camacho

Carter waived the qualification requirement.

Camacho has been serving CUC for 25 years now. He started as a procurement specialist and became manager at the Power Generation Division for several years.

He said his focus right now is trying to make CUC responsive to consumer needs.

He said the job needs expertise on the ground as some decisions have to be made quickly.

Camacho said CUC has expanded its network assistance to Hawaii, California, Kosrae, Pohnpei, Palau, Guam Power Authority, and other areas and organizations.

At the comment portion of the board's meeting last Tuesday, Senate vice president Sen. Jude Hofschneider, CUC deputy director William Gilmore, and several CUC management staff expressed support for Camacho's leadership.

File photo shows another panoramic view of Pagan Island in the Northern Islands.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

AGRI

From Page 1

"We will continue to monitor the implementation of this policy, so that we can get lots up there as soon as we can," said Palacios.

Acting Public Lands secretary Marianne Concepcion-Teregeyo said that DPL is making plans to schedule the distribution date for April after receiving applications.

DPL surveyors under the Planning Division went to Pagan in 2017 to conduct a survey and to install monuments on each of the available lots. After the survey, the lots were parceled, which totaled to 88 agricultural homestead lots.

"DPL is very excited to issue out these agricultural homestead lots," said Concepcion-Teregeyo

The next goal is to issue village homestead lots, she added.

DPL created a task force in 2016 to determine the possibility of issuing village homestead lots on Pagan. At that time, DPL met with the Commonwealth Healthcare Corp., Department of Public Safety, Department of Fire and Emergency Medical Services, Public School System, Commonwealth Utilities Corp., Bureau of Environmental and Coastal Quality, and the Northern Islands Mayor's Office.

That meeting brought up the realization that DPL could not proceed with the village homestead lots within the targeted time frame because of the absence of infrastructure, absence of a hospital, clinic or dispensary, absence of a school system, and the absence of DPS and DFEMS on Pagan.

The requirements for agricultural homesteads are less rigorous, as it strictly for agricultural purposes, thus the decision to first issue agricultural homesteads as a first step in getting Pagan resettled.

After the survey in 2017, DPL published proposed Agricultural Homestead Regulations specifically for the Northern Islands. The regulations are available online at www.dpl.gov.mp, or can be viewed at any DPL offices on Saipan, Rota or Tinian. DPL received comments from the Northern Island Mayor's Office on the proposed regulations, and input from Northern Island residents for this initiative.

"Pagan is a very special place for many of our residents, and it is only fitting that we issue agricultural homesteads," Concepcion-Teregeyo added.

According to homestead director Irene Torres, eligibility for the agricultural homestead program includes the following requirements:

■ An applicant must be 18 years of age or older.

■ An applicant must be a citizen of the CNMI and of Northern Mariana descent as provided in the CNMI Constitution.

■ An applicant must be eligible to vote in the Northern Islands elections.

■ An applicant or his/her spouse must not own or have an interest in agricultural land within the CNMI that equals or exceeds half hectare or 5,000 contiguous square meters.

■ An applicant or his/her spouse must not have been a recipient of an agricultural homestead lot from a previous program.

■ An applicant shall not receive more than one agricultural homestead lot.

All applications are subject for review and will undergo eligibility screening.

To apply and to receive more details, call DPL at 234-3751 or visit the DPL office at the second floor of the Joeten Dandan Commercial Building. For more information on other DPL matters, view their website at www.dpl.gov.mp and for daily activity updates visit DPL's Facebook page at https://www.facebook.com/DPLCNMI. ***(PR)***

DPL

From Page 1

certain public land leases to be amended and extend existing lease terms up to 55 years.

The new law also gives DPL the authority to negotiate new public land leases to certain existing lessees under new terms and considerations even without publishing an RFP.

Acting DPL secretary Marianne C. Teregeyo said the removal of the requirement to publish an RFP was the only thing that was changed in the renewal of existing public land leases.

The public land lease of Fiesta Resort & Spa is set to expire in June 2021; Hyatt Regency Saipan's ends in December 2021.

The new law could give both hotels up to 2076 to operate in the CNMI.

"We've been talking to Hyatt and Fiesta, and we're already negotiating with them. We will no longer have to go to RFP to negotiate with them. They have not yet gotten the extension, since negotiations are still ongoing," Teregeyo told *Saipan Tribune* in a brief statement.

Mariana Resort property

Gov. Ralph DLG Torres said the lease for the Mariana Resort & Spa property is still up for grabs, with several developers expressing an interest to re-open it.

The Marpi property has an existing hotel, villas, spa, golf course, swimming pool, and baseball field.

"We have the [Office of the Attorney General] and DPL still working out the details. We know they are talking to other interested parties into the management issue [of the property] as well as the long-term lease agreement," said Torres.

Mariana Resort closed its doors on Sept. 30, 2018, after more than 30 years of operating on Saipan.

DPL's talks with Imperial Pacific International (CNMI) LLC, the lone bidder for the Marpi property, broke down, leaving the hotel without an operator.

Legal issues and other matters were some of the reasons why talks between IPI and DPL broke down and the Torres administration hopes Mariana Resort won't turn out to be another mothballed La Fiesta.

GOVT

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means that although they are making monthly payments, they're not paying the full amount.

"When you don't pay the full amount, it leaves you with a balance. And it is considered as past due," said Magofna in explaining her financial report about the central government's past due that she presented during the CUC board meeting last Tuesday.

"In any type of obligation you have…if you don't pay the full amount, you have a balance and that remains your past due," she added.

Magofna said part of the 12 months past due is the government's arrear in the amount of $1.9 million.

"It's a combination of other unpaid balances. There is an outstanding balance in the account and that's how we calculated it," she said, referring to the $6,133,067 past due.

Magofna said the central government's monthly utility billing is about half a million.

She said one month they were paying $150,000, then next $250,000.

"We're very grateful because something is better than nothing. But we are also reporting accurately that, although they are making payments, they still have a balance," she said.

Magofna assured, though, that although the government is showing a past due, it is making payments every month.

CUC executive director Gary P. Camacho, for his part, said yesterday that the central government was current in fiscal year 2018.

Still, there were challenges to fund the restoration efforts due to Typhoon Mangkhut and Super Typhoon Yutu, Camacho said.

Camacho said the restoration efforts impacted the central government's ability in making payments to CUC.

"However, I want to make it perfectly clear, that there was payment every month of the year, to include during the two storms," he said.

He assured that the central government has been making an effort to make monthly payments to CUC.

"We really appreciate it," said Camacho, adding that this has helped CUC pay the Guam Power Authority and many other vendors immediately after the two storms and throughout the latter part of the month and the end of the year.

"How much payment every month? It varies obviously because of the challenges caused by the storms," he added.

Camacho said the central government made $150,000 payments a month after the two storms.

"The challenge obviously is right after the storms, but I think it made a substantial effort in paying for the utilities," he said.

The central government also made a payment last month. "They were still able to make payments and we're very appreciative of that," he said.

Camacho said there was a variant because of the central government's upfront support for the restoration and humanitarian efforts.

Camacho said those first weeks and month after Yutu, he would imagine that the government funded CUC.

"So, in all of that, we are still very pleased that we're receiving payment," he said.

He said there has been discussions about getting the central government back on track as to payments to get current as soon as possible.

As of last week, the CNMI central government, the Commonwealth Healthcare Corp., and the Commonwealth Ports Authority owe a total of $51.2 million in utility billings to CUC.

Magofna disclosed at the CUC board meeting last Tuesday that the central government owes $6,133,067, while CHC $27,412,615 and CPA $17,662,237—for a total of $51,207,919 in receivables.

CHCC's past due is for four years while for CPA is five months.

'Commerce ready to work with Cannabis Commission'

By JON PEREZ
jon_perez@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

When the bill to legalize marijuana use in the CNMI was still being crafted, the CNMI Department of Commerce was pretty much in the thick of it and was involved in helping provide input on the measure.

Now that it is law, the department would like to get involved with helping the CNMI Cannabis Commission in regulating this potentially new industry in the Commonwealth. At least according to acting Commerce secretary Mark O. Rabauliman.

The commission was formed to control and regulate marijuana use in the CNMI, as embodied in Public Law 20-66 that was enacted last year.

Rabauliman said that Commerce was pretty much involved when the bill to create the cannabis industry was still being written. "When [P.L. 20-66] first started, when it was in its draft format, there was a heavy involvement in terms of the Department of Commerce."

He said there has been a major shift since the creation of the commission and he would like Commerce to get involved anew. "Right now we are in a wait-and-see mode in terms of the commission now doing the regulation. …Commerce is… ready…[but], at this point, it is up to the commission that has been appointed."

He said that Commerce can help the commission in regulating and issuing licenses to those who want to either grow, produce, process, keep or store homegrown cannabis, whether in a house or cultivation site.

Commerce usually works with businesses, gathers demographical data to be used by the government in its decision-making policies to create jobs, helps improve the standard of living of the community, and find ways to grow the economy.

Rabauliman said that there's also a possibility that Alcohol, Beverage, and Tobacco Control—one of the five divisions under the Commerce Department—would be involved in the commission's implementation of the regulations involving cannabis.

"Hopefully, I think, we would be participating. It has not been defined yet, until the commission comes out with the regulations. That's where our involvement would be more apparent," added Rabauliman.

Nadine Deleon Guerrero and Matt Deleon Guerrero (Saipan), Valentino Taisacan Jr. (Northern Islands), Lawrence Duponcheel (Tinian), and Thomas Songsong (Rota) are the commission's members.

Still illegal

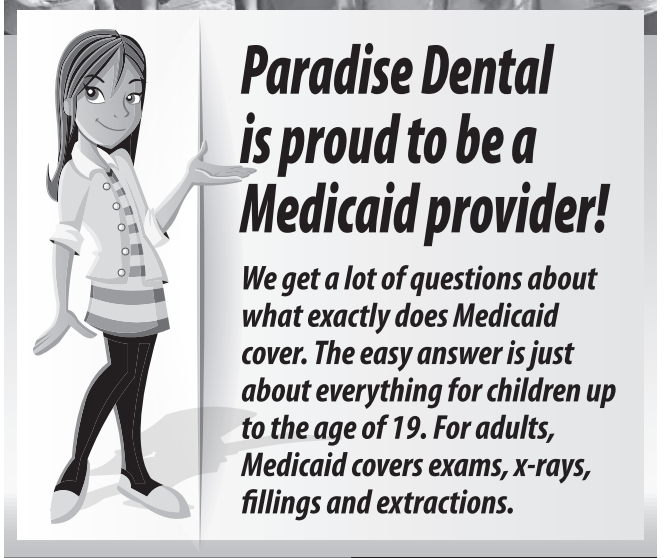
Torres again reminded the community that cannabis or marijuana remains illegal in the CNMI, whether for cultivating or smoking, until the commission comes out with the regulations.

"Again, for everybody, it is a trial and error. We're going to try our very best to create and make policies for the best of the community. At the same time, it is not yet legal to start planting and I hope you don't start planting. Even smoking it is illegal," said Torres.

House floor leader Rep. John Paul P. Sablan (R-Saipan) introduced House Bill 21-13, which would make changes to the parts vetoed by Torres in P.L. 20-66.

Torres added that they would also need to identify how much funding the commission needs to operate as his administration wants to make sure they do things right to regulate and control the new industry in the CNMI.

"I've met with the commission and told them that we wanted to do it expeditiously but at the same time slowly enough to make sure that we understand what we're getting ourselves into," said Torres.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INTERNATIONAL WOMEN'S MONTH

An educator in school and in life

Hopwood Middle School principal Rizalina M. Liwag said that they are on their third week in the temporary campus in Koblerville and getting settled as normal school programs and activities take place.

BEA CABRERA

By BEA CABRERA
beacabrerasaipan@gmail.com
CORRESPONDENT

Hopwood Middle School principal Rizalina M. Liwag was born to be an educator.

She herself knew this even while still a child and under the care of her aunt, a school principal, in Biñan, Laguna in the Philippines.

Soon after college, in 1994, she found herself starting her career as a teacher at the Sinapalo Elementary School on Rota.

In 2002 she transferred to Koblerville Elementary School on Saipan. And since 2017 up to the present, Liwag has been the principal of Admiral Herbert G. Hopwood Middle School.

"I was inspired by my aunt, Aurora Pena, who worked as a school principal. …I saw what and how she contributed to the community. …She encouraged me to become an educator," she said.

Her aunt made her do that by making her practice her teaching skills when she was still young "because there was a big need for us to extend our helping hands to children."

In high school, her aunt would bring her to school to see the kind of job that she does.

Liwag then became a teacher's aide for summer classes, "which inspired me more to contribute to the community as an educator."

"I live by the thought that our children are very precious and we want to make sure they are in good hands…," she said.

Before Super Typhoon Yutu hit Saipan last October, the Hopwood administration and faculty were already putting together plans to advance the teaching and learning in the school. However, the typhoon took with it all those plans and left behind vast destruction.

Visiting Hopwood after the typhoon and seeing the extent of the school's devastation was a heartbreaking sight. A teary-eyed Liwag said she felt terrible because they had so many plans for student success.

"We suddenly found ourselves setting aside those plans and looking at other things that we should prioritize.

"One thing was clear—the pursuit of education was the focus. Despite the things that needed to be done with infrastructure, we remained focused to ensure that we provide education for the students—education that they deserve despite the current circumstances.

"This was made possible by working hand in hand with Public School System leadership, community leaders and so we were able to identify plans for the transition or relocation of the school," she said.

Moving 900 students, faculty, and staff to a different site was overwhelming but Liwag knew it had to be done.

Hopwood moved to Marianas High School temporarily "to get the children get back to school" and eventually transitioned everyone to the school's current "tent" campus adjacent to the Koblerville Elementary School, which was built by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers and funded by the Federal Emergency Management Agency, and the local CNMI government.

"We are on our third week in the temporary campus and we thank the Lord that we are back to our normal routine," she said.

That means having full-day sessions, with students participating in extracurricular programs and activities, and providing after-school programs.

To make sure that the students' wellbeing is addressed, counselors provide services and mental health support.

Their "new normal," Liwag said, now entails creating new plans for the school year that would address the current needs of the students. "Part of the plan is to proceed with the restoration of our old campus while the government is figuring out a plan to build a new school for Hopwood in a different location."

"Getting to where we are right now was not an easy journey. …There were times when I just felt like giving up, but then I think of my colleagues who depend on me. I have to be resilient to make sure I give them strength, as their strength is my strength and my strength is their strength," she added.

Learning never stops, whether it is within the four corners of the classroom or this bigger university called life.

"After all the trials and challenges, we grow stronger and I am blessed because, aside from my family, the teachers, government leaders, students, and their parents gave me courage and put their trust in me. If I were to talk to another woman who is in a difficult situation, I would tell them that nothing is impossible and continue to focus on their goals and plans for success," Liwag said.

"My aunt is now 75 years old and still works as a school principal at St. Francis School in our hometown. …When I [became a principal], she was very happy. Like my aunt, I will be an educator even in my 70s, as long as the children need me and I am still able to contribute to the education system." Liwag added.

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Colon cancer: 2nd most deadly, 5th most common

By ERWIN ENCINARES
erwin_encinares@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Colorectal cancer in the U.S. is the fifth most commonly diagnosed cancer and is also the second most common causes of cancer deaths for both men and women.

Those alarming numbers underscored yesterday's proclamation signing, which designated March as the National Colorectal Cancer Awareness Month 2019. Lt. Gov. Arnold I. Palacios signed the proclamation designation.

According to Commonwealth Cancer Association executive director John Babauta, cancer can happen to anybody—anytime, anywhere, and at any age.

"It does not discriminate," he added.

That makes colon cancer one of the top cancers in the CNMI, according to Babauta. "We want to raise awareness and encourage everybody to do their check-ups and prevention, as well as see their primary doctors," he said. "These 'warriors' also need to be taken cared of."

Cancer survivor Brett M. Halstead, 52, noted that he has been cancer-free for four months already, as his colorectal cancer was detected early.

"Try to get yourself checked as soon as possible. The age of 45 is probably better for colorectal cancer," he said.

Halstead credits his early detection for saving his life.

"I found out about it last year, March 24, 2018, through a colonoscopy at the Commonwealth Healthcare Corp. From there, I quit my job and had to go get treatment," he said. "It was hard having to go through all these surgeries, but I survived; I lived," he said.

Yesterday's proclamation noted that 90 percent of individuals whose colorectal cancer were detected in their early stage have been able to survive, while only 10 percent survived after the same cancer has spread to other organs.

"…The risk factors increase after the age of 50," the proclamation states. "…It is important to educate oneself on the signs and symptoms of colorectal cancer."

Based on CCA records, there are fewer than 10 cancer patients on island right now.

Lt. Gov. Arnold Palacios, center, signs the colorectal cancer awareness proclamation as Commonwealth Cancer Association executive director John Babauta, right, looks on.
ERWIN ENCINARES

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Sablan bill to allow chenchulu fishing

By JON PEREZ
jon_perez@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Sen. Vinnie F. Sablan (Ind-Saipan) has introduced a bill that would allow the use of surround nets when harvesting bigeye scad (atulai) on Saipan and the Northern Islands during its season.

Senate Bill 21-24 would amend the law to legalize the use of surround nets or chenchulun umesugon. The method is prohibited under Public Law 12-14 or the Fair Fishing Act of 2000 that was co-authored by former representatives Jesus T. Attao, Alejo M. Mendiola Jr., and Norman S. Palacios.

Sablan said it has been 18 years since the use of surround nets or chenchulus was prohibited by P.L. 12-14, which was originality intended to protect the marine resources in the CNMI's territorial waters.

He assured that, under his proposed measure, all other non-traditional fishing methods are still prohibited.

Sablan

"[P.L. 12-14] is certainly a noble intent. With proper control mechanisms through enforcement and regulations, we should be able to allow the usage of surround nets to supplement our people's family subsistence living due to many social and economic realities," said Sablan.

"Many fishermen have informed me that they have noticed an abundance of healthy schools of the bigeye scad (atulai) fish species on their seasonal runs," he added.

S.B. 21-24 pointed out that drag nets (chenchulun lagua), surround nets (chenchulun umesngon), and trap nets (chenchulun managam) are already allowed fishing methods on Rota and Tinian.

These three fishing methods are used in catching bigeye scad (atulai) and juvenile goatfish (tiao) during its seasonal run off the waters of Rota and Tinian.

The first-term senator, who represented Precinct 4 in the 19th and 20th House of Representatives, said his office would be soliciting comments from different sectors of the community—the public, various government agencies, and the private sector. "[The comments] would present any findings that will help us amend the bill to improve its intent."

For more information, call Sablan's office at 664-8803 or email staff.sablan@cnmileg.gov.mp.

There are already several laws related to non-traditional fishing methods, with some prohibiting such practices.

P.L. 12-77 itself is a blanket prohibition on non-traditional fishing methods within the entire waters of the CNMI.

Red Cross in the spotlight this month

By ERWIN ENCINARES
erwin_encinares@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

This month has been declared American Red Cross Month in recognition of the humanitarian organization's operation that has aided the CNMI in several natural disasters throughout the years.

Acting in the stead of Gov. Ralph DLG Torres, Lt. Gov. Arnold I. Palacios signed yesterday the proclamation that designates March 2019 as Red Cross Month in recognition of their services and response to several natural disasters that have struck the CNMI.

According to ARC-NMI Chapter statistics, they were able to provide over 116,000 meals, 130,000 relief items and assisted over 4,800 families with financial assistance in response to Super Typhoon Yutu alone.

The NMI chapter also started a program in cooperation with the Department of Fire and Emergency Services to install smoke alarms in several homes throughout the Commonwealth. To date, they have installed nearly 800 smoke alarms for free.

ARC-NMI chapter executive director John Hirsh gave particular homage to the chapter's volunteers. "We are nothing without our volunteers. They are really the heart and soul of everything that we do," he said.

"We deeply appreciate all the kind words around Super Typhoon Yutu. Our mission goes on everyday, so we are out there trying to help families and trying to make our islands safer for not only the next storm but for our children," he said, adding that educational programs also help with this.

According to Palacios, whatever the role is, as long as people are assisting the community, it counts.

"…Each individual, whether a legislator, a member of the Cabinet, or even a volunteer, we have all made a difference in our individual efforts to help with the mission of the American Red Cross," he said.

ERWIN ENCINARES
Lt. Gov. Arnold I. Palacios signs the American Red Cross Month proclamation yesterday as American Red Cross-NMI Chapter executive director John Hirsh looks on.

Palacios recognized that the CNMI is just starting to get over Super Typhoon Yutu, which struck late October 2018, but he noted that everyday is the time to "invigorate our efforts toward helping others."

"An organization that is always at the forefront in these efforts is the American Red Cross. On behalf of Gov. Ralph DLG Torres and our community, thank you American Red Cross," he added.

Commonwealth Utilities Corporation
Office of the Executive Director

INVITATION FOR BIDS
CUC-IFB-19-015

ROTA WATER SYSTEM IMPROVEMENTS PHASE 2 PROJECT (W17-053)

The Office of the Executive Director, Commonwealth Utilities Corporation (CUC) is soliciting competitive sealed bids from qualified firms for the Construction of Rota Water System Improvements Phase 2 Project in Rota, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands. The project consists, in general installation of gate valve assembly, PRV installations, PRV CMU protective boxes, fencing, restoration of existing asphalt concrete road; and other related work. The work shall be done in accordance with the Project Plans and Specifications and without disruption to the daily operation of the water system.

This project is funded by a grant from the United States Environmental Protection Agency (USEPA). The award of this project is contingent upon receipt of the approval for project award from USEPA.

CUC requires the Project to be completed in **365 calendar** days from date of award of contract.

Prospective Bidders for this IFB must pre-register with the CUC Procurement & Supply Division. The Bid Package may be obtained from the CUC Procurement and Supply Office, 3rd Floor, Room No. 3, Joeten Dandan Commercial Building, Saipan, between 7:30 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. and 12:30 p.m. to 4:00 p.m., Monday through Friday, except on government observed holidays, upon completion of registration and presentation of a receipt evidencing a non-refundable payment to the CUC Treasury Section, by cash, check or credit card in the amount of $200.00 (non-refundable) for one IFB package set.

A Pre-Bid Conference followed by a Site Visit is scheduled on **March 13th, 2019 at 10:00 AM (ChST)** at the CUC Rota Directors Office, Sinapalo, Rota.

One (1) original and Five (5) hard copies along with an electronic copy of the proposal on a compact disk or USB Drive in PDF format must be submitted in a sealed envelope marked **"CUC-IFB-19-015, Rota Water System Improvements Phase 2 Project",** to the CUC Procurement & Supply Office, 3rd Floor, Room No. 3, Joeten Dandan Commercial Building, P.O. Box 501220, Saipan, MP 96950, no later than **10:00 AM (ChST) on April 4, 2019**, at which time they will be publicly opened and read aloud. Late submissions and conditional bids will not be considered. Bid shall be submitted on the provided Bid Forms. Bidders are required to complete all Bid Forms. Bidders may supplement the form as appropriate. Bids will be required to be submitted under a condition of irrevocability for a period of 60 days after submission. **Late submissions and conditional bids will not be considered.**

All bidders are advised that CUC assumes no responsibility in any act of omission on the part of the bidders due to lack of information or understanding of the bid requirements in the course of Contractor's preparation of a bid under the contract.

A *Bid Guarantee* of fifteen (15%) percent of the total bid price must accompany the bids. The bid guarantee may be in cash, certified check, cashier's check, or bid bond executed by a surety company holding a certificate of authority from the United States, Secretary of Treasury as an acceptable surety. A *Payment Bond* of one hundred (100%) percent and a *Performance Bond* of one hundred (100%) percent of the total bid price will be required upon the execution of the contract by the successful bidders. The Payment and Performance bond must be executed by a surety company holding a certificate of authority from the United States Secretary of Treasury as an acceptable surety. Surety Company must be authorized to do business in the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

All insurers' questions, concerns and qualification shall be handled by the Department of Commerce Office of the Insurance Commissioner (OIC). The OIC is tasked with regulating and monitoring compliance to the CNMI's Insurance Code (Title 4, Division 7). Bidders are required to submit a clearance from the OIC certifying their insurer of choice is in compliance with the CNMI's Insurance Code.

All bidders are required to comply with all CNMI and applicable Federal Laws. This bid and the ensuing contract shall be executed pursuant to the CUC Procurement Regulations.

All questions or request for clarification regarding this project must be submitted in writing no later than **10:00 AM (ChST) on March 21, 2019** to Mr. Manny B. Sablan, CUC Purchasing Administrator, via email at manny.sablan@cucgov.org with a copy to LCDR Travis Spaeth, CUC Water/Wastewater Senior Engineer via email at travis.spaeth@cucgov.org and Ms. Christie Sablan, Procurement & Supply, Administrative Support Assistant via email at christie.sablan@cucgov.org

CUC reserves the right to reject any or all bids and waive any imperfection in the bid proposal in the best interest of the government. All bids shall become the property of CUC.

GARY P. CAMACHO
Executive Director

MANNY B. SABLAN
Purchasing Administrator

Commonwealth Utilities Corporation
Office of the Executive Director

EMERGENCY REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS
CUC-RFP-19-014

SADOG TASI PRIMARY SCREEN PROJECT

The Office of the Executive Director for the Commonwealth Utilities Corporation (CUC), is soliciting competitive sealed proposals from qualified vendors for the attainment of a Primary Screen for the Sadog Tasi Wastewater Treatment Plant at CUC Saipan, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

The RFP Package may be obtained from the CUC Procurement and Supply Office, 3rd Floor, Room No. 3, Joeten Dandan Commercial Building, Saipan, between 7:30 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. and 12:30 p.m. to 4:00 p.m., Monday through Friday, except on government observed holidays, upon completion of registration and presentation of a receipt evidencing a non-refundable payment to the CUC Treasury Section, by cash, check or credit card in the amount of $100.00 (non-refundable) for one RFP package set. The RFP package consisting of the specifications and scope-of-work will be emailed to all registered prospective proposers email ID. Prospective Proposers must pre-register with the CUC Procurement & Supply Division.

One (1) original and four (5) hard copies, along with an electronic copy of the proposal on a compact disk or USB Drive in PDF format must be submitted in a sealed envelope marked *"CUC-RFP-19-014, Sadog Tasi Primary Screen Project"* to the CUC Procurement & Supply Office, 3rd Floor, Room No. 3, Joeten Dandan Commercial Building, P.O. Box 501220, Saipan, MP 96950, no later than **March 22, 2019 at 10:00 AM (ChST)**. Late submissions and conditional proposals will not be considered.

A *Proposal Guarantee* of fifteen (15%) percent of the total proposal price must accompany the proposals. The security deposit may be in cash, certified check, cashier's check, or proposal bond executed by a surety company holding a certificate of authority from the United States Secretary of Treasury as an acceptable surety. A *Payment Bond* of one hundred (100%) percent and a *Performance Bond* of one hundred (100%) percent of the total bid price will be required upon the execution of the contract by the successful Proposer. The Payment and Performance bond must be executed by a surety company holding a certificate of authority from the United States Secretary of Treasury as an acceptable surety. Surety Company must be authorized to do business in the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands, for the protection of all persons supplying labor and material to the contractor or its subcontractors for the performance of the work provided for in the contract.

All insurers' questions, concerns and qualification shall be handled by the Department of Commerce Office of the Insurance Commissioner (OIC). The OIC is tasked with regulating and monitoring compliance to the CNMI's Insurance Code (Title 4, Division 7). *Proposers are required to submit a clearance from the OIC certifying their insurer of choice is in compliance with the CNMI's Insurance Code.*

Discussions may be conducted with responsible offerors who submit proposals determined to be reasonably susceptible of being selected for award for the purpose of clarification and to ensure full understanding of and responsiveness to solicitation requirements. Offerors shall be accorded fair and equal treatment with respect to any opportunity to discussion and revision of proposals, and such revision may be permitted after submission and prior to award for the purpose of obtaining the best and final offers. During discussions, there will be no disclosure of any information derived from proposals submitted by competing offerors.

All Offeror are advised that CUC assumes no responsibility in any act of omission on the part of the Offeror due to lack of information or understanding of the proposal requirements in the course of Contractor's preparation of a proposal or supply under the contract. The RFP does not commit CUC to award a contract, to pay any cost incurred in the preparation of the proposal under this request, or to procure or contract for services. Offeror are required to comply with all CNMI and applicable Federal Laws. This bid and the ensuing contract shall be executed as per the CUC Procurement Regulations.

All responses to this RFP should take into account any and all taxes, including excise tax, which will become the obligation of the proponent awarded a contract. Successful proponents will be required to submit a copy of a valid CNMI Business license in compliance with the Contractor's Registration and Licensing Laws of the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands, upon award of the contract. The Contractor and all subcontractors will be obligated to pay wage rates not less than the current CNMI minimum wage, prevailing through the period of contract, as indicated in the web page: https://marianaslabor.net/. The proponents shall be required to comply with all applicable CNMI and Federal Laws.

Questions or requests for clarification will be entertained only from pre-registered prospective proposers and must be submitted in writing no later than **10:00 AM (ChST) on March 8, 2019** to Manny B. Sablan, CUC Purchasing Administrator at email address manny.sablan@cucgov.org with a copy to Westen Knudsen, P.E., Senior Engineer for Water/Wastewater at email address westen.knudsen@cucgov.org and Christie Sablan, CUC Purchasing Administrative Technician, Senior at email address christie.sablan@cucgov.org.

CUC reserves the right to reject any or all proposals for any reason and to waive any defects in said proposal, if in its sole opinion, to do so would be in the best interest of CUC. All proposals shall become the property of CUC.

GARY P. CAMACHO
Executive Director

MANNY B. SABLAN
Purchasing Administrator

Atalig is governor's special assistant for Rev&Tax

By JON PEREZ
jon_perez@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

David DLG Atalig has accepted a position as the governor's special assistant for revenue and taxation.

Atalig returned to Saipan early this year after almost 10 years of working and living in West Coast, including in Draper City, Utah. He previously worked in numerous agencies and departments in the local government before moving to the U.S. mainland.

He said he returned to the CNMI to help the Commonwealth government in its revenue collection programs, almost four months after Super Typhoon Yutu ravaged the islands.

This was echoed by Gov. Ralph DLG Torres, who said his administration brought in Atalig to help the Division of Revenue and Taxation.

"I want to congratulate and thank him [Atalig] for coming back home and, so far, in the last two weeks, he has done a great job in updating our status. He has proposed numerous programs on how to go out to our local and business community and have a better relationship in paying their taxes," Torres said.

The Revenue and Taxation Division remains without a director for eight years now and Torres said that Atalig's appointment is part of his administration's plan of having someone help the government this tax season.

"I know that the position [Revenue and Taxation director] has been announced and it was closed [application] on Feb. 17. That will be up to the [Office of Personnel Management]. We're still moving in making sure that I don't want to wait any longer," said Torres.

Atalig has a bachelor 's degree in Business Administration with emphasis in Finance and Management at the University of San Diego. He also earned certificates and had trainings in accounting, business management, and institutional planning and budget.

His first job was as clinic administrator at the Saipan Health Clinic, then he worked for seven years at the Northern Marianas College as the Budget Office head and director for Finance and Administrative Services.

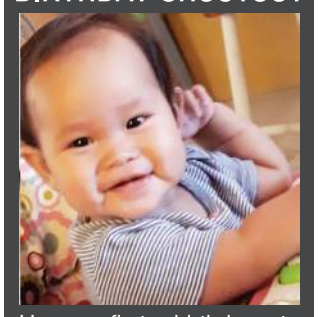
Atalig then moved the Marianas Public Lands Authority as Capital Improvement Plan coordinator/financial analyst and worked for one year as director of the Finance Division of the Department of Public Lands. He also worked in Oregon, Utah, and San Diego before moving back to Saipan.

Torres, meanwhile, said that his administration is still working on the replacement for Finance Secretary Larrisa Larson, who remains the department's head despite not being included on the list of those re-appointed to the Cabinet.

The Senate Executive Appointments and Government Investigations Committee, chaired by Sen. Francisco Q. Cruz (R-Tinian), would soon hold confirmation hearings for the nine other Cabinet members who were re-appointed.

Mark Rabauliman (Commerce), Robert Hunter (Community and Cultural Affairs), Vincent Attao (Corrections), Clyde Norita (Fire and Emergency Medical Services), Vicky Benavente (Labor), Anthony Benavente (Lands and Natural Resources), Marianne Teregeyo (Public Lands), and Robert Guerrero (Public Safety) were on the list submitted by the administration to the Senate.

BIRTHDAY SHOUTOUT



Happy first birthday to our Leina Raine DLC Bansil! May you have a wonderful day filled with more love and joy. We love you always, Mommy, Daddy, Leo, Lea, and Lenelle.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Saipan Vegas Resort, Club 88 offer first 'wide-area jackpot'

Saipan Vegas Resort and Club 88 Slot Clubs are excited to announce Saipan's first ever Wide-Area Jackpot, linking the floorwide jackpots at both venues.

Starting last March 7, the $15,000 grand-level jackpot at both venues will be linked so a player has a chance to win the grand jackpot at either venue.

With the Wide-Area Jackpot, all the machines from both venues are contributing to the jackpot, therefore the jackpot amount increases faster and can be won more often. A player can win the grand jackpot on any machine with any bet amount at either venue.

"We are always looking at ways to give our players a fun experience and with more chances to win. Using new high-speed fiber optic internet connections allows us to introduce this exciting new initiative," said Gus Noble, the group's consultant. ***(PR)***

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GMS Falcons shine at regional speech contests

Green Meadow School students, more popularly known as the Falcons after their school mascot, did well at two recent speech competitions, with one being the school's most number of wins so far.

GMS middle school students competed in the National Junior Speech and Debate Association competition, which was held for five days—Feb. 12-16, 2019—at Mount Carmel School.

The school's middle school students also took part in the Junior International Thespian Society regional competition this school year last Feb. 9, 2019.

According to a school statement, this year's NJSDA competition was Green Meadow School's most number of wins.

The following individuals won these events in NJSDA: Christian Ted Pamintuan (8th grade) placed third in Declamation and fifth in Original Oratory, Ariel Legaspi (7th grade) placed fourth in Humorous Interpretation and fifth in Dramatic Interpretation, Areeza Gaile Anda (7th grade) placed fifth in Poetry, Joseph JImenez (7th grade) placed fifth in Declamation, and Arnel Josh Coloma (7th grade) placed fifth in Storytelling. Kaena Tabora (7th grade) got into the semifinals in Dramatic Interpretation.

The winning students of Green Meadow School pose with school principal Milagros Songcuan. CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

The following students are also commended for performing their best: Sabino Cabrera (8th grade), Danielle Nicole Sacramento (7th grade), and 6th graders Chris Vecina, Raiden Roquelara, Buien Joseph Din.

GMS students who did well in the JITS included 6th graders Arro Solana Hunter and Daniel Gonzales, who placed third in Duet Musical with a superior ranking and 8th graders Angelene Faith Cacdac and Jazmyn Phoeme Lopez, who got an excellent ranking. Congratulations to Raeka Lantin, Darren Tabora, Kaena Tabora, and Honey June Satur for doing their best in the finals. Duet Acting pairs John Cavinta and Samuallino Cabrera advanced to the finals, while Chealzka Navarro and Samantha Mangalinao, and 7th graders Danielle Nicole Sacramento and Arnel Josh Coloma did a good job too. Arro Solana Hunter, 6th grader, competed in the finals for her Solo Musical. Seventh Graders- Ariel Legaspi, Darren Tabora, and Areeza Anda made it to Monologue finals. The following students reached the semifinal round in Monologue event: Sabino Cabrera,Ted Pamintuan, Danielle Nicole Sacramento, and Chealzka Navarro.

The school acknowledged the hard work of coach Lorelisa Espiritu and thanks the middle school parents and teachers for their support. The judges who served during the competitions were Grace Mendoza, Chekinah Coloma, and Rowena Coloma. ***(PR)***

Annual mock trial competition begins

The 21st Annual CNMI High School Mock Trial competition began yesterday with five high schools across the CNMI fielding teams going head to head for the chance to represent the CNMI and their respective schools in the statewide National Mock Trial competition.

This year's winning school will represent the CNMI in Athens, Georgia on May 16-18.

The competing schools are Mount Carmel School, Saipan International School, Tinian Jr. and Sr. High School, Grace Christian Academy, and Marianas High School.

MCS bested eight others during last year's contest.

The CNMI mock trial program is sponsored by the local judiciary, the Public School System and the CNMI Bar Association.

Rounds 1, 2 and 3 were held yesterday and Round 4 and the championship round will start at 12:15pm today.

The students are arguing the fictitious case of *Justin Pangelinan v. ForensiTech, Inc.*

In the fictitious case, Pangelinan, a minor and the only son of Alex Pangelinan, sustained serious injuries while attending ForensiTech science camp at the Northern Marianas College in Finasisu.

On June 25, camp counselor Pat Pinaula led Pangelinan and the other students in Pat's evening activity group on an off-campus hike to a location Pinaula had not previously visited. The group became lost and spent the night on a mountain.

Around 3am on June 26, Pangelinan awoke in a confused state, fell down the mountain, and struck his head. Pangelinan sustained a spinal cord injury resulting in a quadriplegia and a serious concussion leading to long term impairment.

Pangelinan is suing ForensiTech Inc., arguing that the company was grossly negligent in sending students on a hike to an unfamiliar location and was liable for damages.

ForensiTech denies gross negligence. ForensiTech also claims that Pangelinan's own actions in hiding his Type I diabetes from the camp staff led to his confusion and ensuing injuries.

The disposition of the case will come down to determination of fault. Both sides will present witnesses, expert testimony, and exhibit to support their theory of the case. ***(Kimberly A. Bautista)***

MARIANAS VISITORS AUTHORITY
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Fax: (670) 664-3237
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REGULAR BOARD MEETING NOTICE

Pursuant to Public Law 8-41, Section 11, the Marianas Visitors Authority hereby gives notice that a **Regular Board of Directors Meeting** will be held on **Tuesday, March 12, 2019 at 9:00 a.m.** in the MVA Conference Room, San Jose Professional Building Saipan, MP 96950.

MEETING AGENDA

1) **Preliminary Matters**
   1. Call to Order
   2. Roll Call
   3. Adoption of Agenda
   4. Adoption of Minutes
      a. Regular Board Meeting – January 29, 2019
2) **Public Comments**
3) **Committee Reports**
   1. Finance –
      a. Fund Status Report - February 2019
4) **New Business**
   1. G4S Contract Renewal
   2. FY2020 Budget Submission to the Office of Management and Budget
5) **Old Business**
   1. Grant Agreement with the NMI Humanities Council for the Garapan Heritage Trail - No Cost Extension
6) **Miscellaneous/Announcements**
7) **Executive Session**
8) **Adjournment**

/s/ Marian Aldan-Pierce
Chairperson, MVA Board of Directors

PROCUREMENT AND SUPPLY
CNMI GOVERNMENT
REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS
RFP19-DOF-060

SUBMISSION DATE: APRIL 18, 2019 TIME: 09:30 A.M.

"GROUP LIFE INSURANCE COVERAGE FOR GOVERNMENT EMPLOYEES AND RETIREES FOR THE DEPARTMENT OF FINANCE"

COPIES OF THE SPECIFICATIONS MAY BE OBTAINED AT THE OFFICE OF THE DIRECTOR OF PROCUREMENT & SUPPLY, LOCATED AT THE FORMER EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT OFFICE, ASCENCION DRIVE, BUILDING NO. 1301, CAPITOL HILL, SAIPAN, DURING REGULAR WORKING HOURS ON **MARCH 08, 2019**.

ALL QUESTIONS REGARDING THIS RFP **MUST** BE SUBMITTED VIA FACSIMILE TO THE OFFICE OF THE DIRECTOR OF PROCUREMENT AND SUPPLY VIA FACSIMILE TO **(670) 664-1515** OR VIA EMAIL TO procurement@cnmidof.net **NO LATER THAN 04:00 P.M., LOCAL TIME, APRIL 05, 2019**. ALL QUESTIONS SUBMITTED WILL THEN BE FORWARDED TO THE SECRETARY OF FINANCE. ALL QUESTIONS AND RESPONSES SHALL BE SHARED WITH ALL PROPOSERS.

THE PROVISIONS OF THE CNMI PROCUREMENT REGULATIONS, NMIAC SECTION 70-30.3-725 AND 70-30.3-730 PROHIBITING GRATUITIES, KICKBACKS AND CONTINGENT FEES SHALL APPLY.

THE CNMI GOVERNMENT RESERVES THE RIGHT TO REJECT ANY OR ALL BIDS, OR PORTIONS THEREOF, AND WAIVE IMMATERIAL DEFECTS IF TO DO SO WOULD BE IN THE BEST INTEREST OF THE CNMI GOVERNMENT.

/S/ LARISSA C. LARSON
SECRETARY OF FINANCE

/S/ HERMAN S. SABLAN
DIRECTOR, PROC. & SUPPLY

Name: Rosie T. Ada
Address: P.O. Box 501643
Saipan MP 96950
Phone No.: 783-8417

PRO SE

IN THE SUPERIOR COURT OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS

IN THE MATTER OF THE PETITION FOR THE CHANGE OF NAME OF: ROSIE JANE TAITANO SALINAS PETITIONER) FCD CN CIVIL ACTION NO. 19-0113) **NOTICE OF HEARING**

Notice is hereby given that the above-entitled matter is set for a hearing on March 11, 2019 at 9:00 a.m. in Courtroom MBP before Honorable Judge Kim-Tenorio.

Dated this 5th day of March, 2019.

Patrick V. Diaz
Clerk of Court

/s/ Deputy Clerk of Court

IN THE SUPERIOR COURT FOR THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS

LI, GUIHONG Petitioner, vs. ZENG, ZHAOSHENG Respondent,) FCD-DI CIVIL ACTION NO. 19-0013) **SUMMONS FOR PUBLICATION**

TO THE ABOVE NAME RESPONDENT:

YOU ARE HEREBY SUMMONED and notified to file any answer you wish to make to the Complaint, a copy of which is on file with the court, within thirty (30) days after service of the Summons upon you, and to deliver or mail a copy of your answer to the Petitioner whose address is PMB, 538 Box 10003 Saipan MP, 96950 as soon as practical after filing your answer or sending it to the Clerk of Courts for filing.

Your answer should be in writing and filed with the Clerk of this Court at P.O. Box 500307 Susupe, Saipan, MP 96950. It may be prepared for you by your counsel and sent to the Clerk of this Court by messenger or Mail. It is not necessary for you to appear personally until further notice. If you fail to file and answer in accordance with this summons, judgement by default may be taken against you for relief in the complaint.

Dated this 21 day of February, 2019

/s/ Clerk of Court

Next week is World Kidney Day at CHCC

The Commonwealth Healthcare Corp. announced yesterday that they would be celebrating World Kidney Day with weeklong events starting Monday.

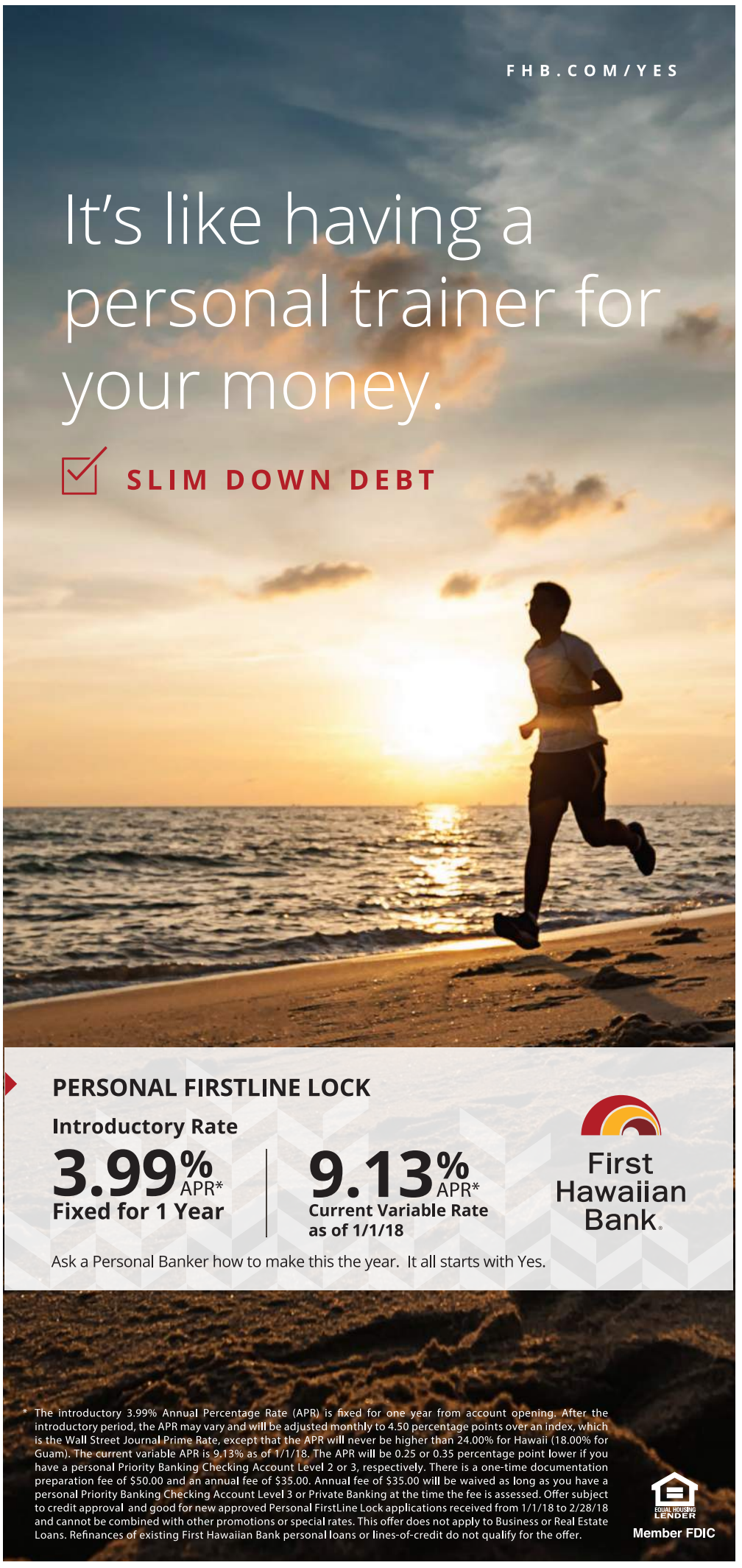
CHCC would kick of the occasion with a proclamation signing on Monday. On March 12, peritoneal dialysis patients will be sharing their stories on KKMP radio while the Commonwealth Health Center's dietician, head nurse, and nephrologist will answer caller questions.

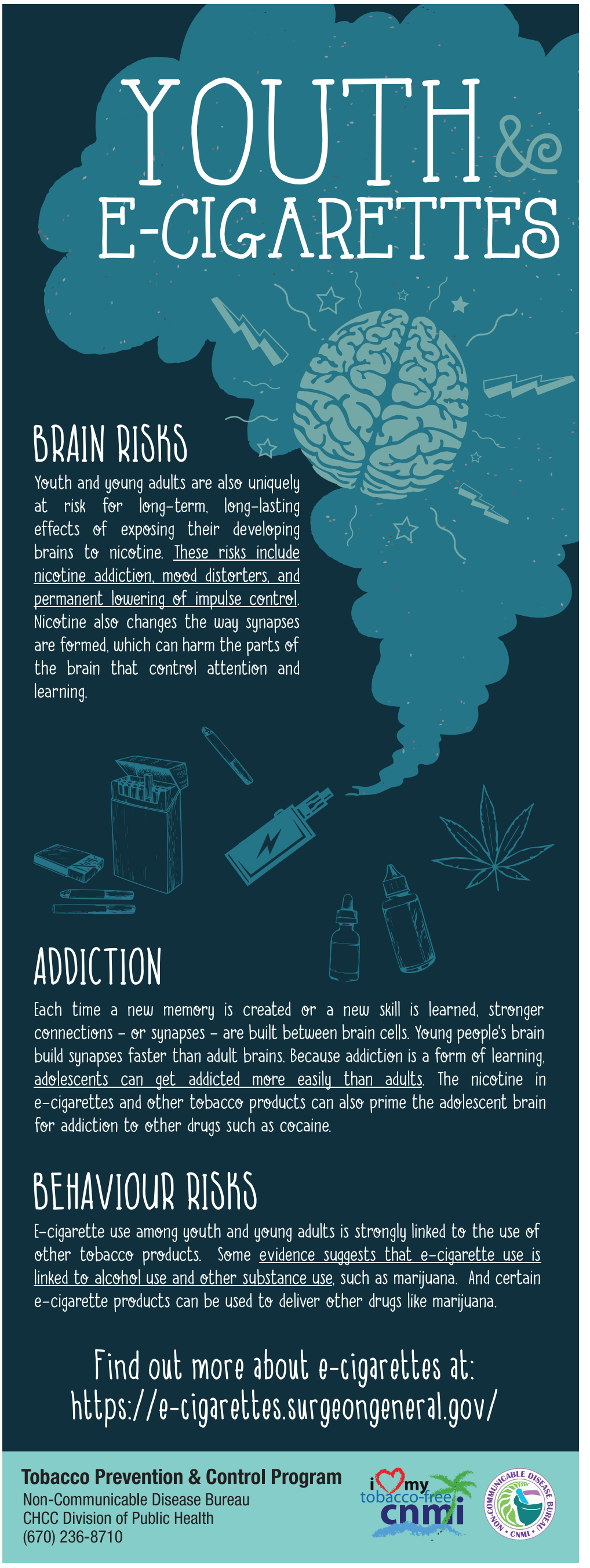
On March 13, CHC would be hosting a free mini-Zumba class and a mini-kickboxing class at the CHCC administration building parking lot starting at 5pm. The public is invited to this free event.

On World Kidney Day itself, March 14, 2019, CHCC will be hosting a daylong health fair outside the Hemodialysis Clinic from 9am to 3pm. There will be educational booths, free health screenings for blood sugar and blood pressure, cooking demonstrations, a photo booth, and a trivia game booth with prizes.

World Kidney Day is an initiative organized by the International Society of Nephrology and the International Federation of Kidney Foundations.

According to CHCC statistics, about 850 million people worldwide have kidney diseases of varying origins. ***(Erwin Encinares)***


FHB.COM/YES
It's like having a personal trainer for your money.
SLIM DOWN DEBT
PERSONAL FIRSTLINE LOCK
Introductory Rate
3.99% APR*
Fixed for 1 Year
9.13% APR*
Current Variable Rate as of 1/1/18
First Hawaiian Bank
Ask a Personal Banker how to make this the year. It all starts with Yes.
* The introductory 3.99% Annual Percentage Rate (APR) is fixed for one year from account opening. After the introductory period, the APR may vary and will be adjusted monthly to 4.50 percentage points over an index, which is the Wall Street Journal Prime Rate, except that the APR will never be higher than 24.00% for Hawaii (18.00% for Guam). The current variable APR is 9.13% as of 1/1/18. The APR will be 0.25 or 0.35 percentage point lower if you have a personal Priority Banking Checking Account Level 2 or 3, respectively. There is a one-time documentation preparation fee of $50.00 and an annual fee of $35.00. Annual fee of $35.00 will be waived as long as you have a personal Priority Banking Checking Account Level 3 or Private Banking at the time the fee is assessed. Offer subject to credit approval and good for new approved Personal FirstLine Lock applications received from 1/1/18 to 2/28/18 and cannot be combined with other promotions or special rates. This offer does not apply to Business or Real Estate Loans. Refinances of existing First Hawaiian Bank personal loans or lines-of-credit do not qualify for the offer.
EQUAL HOUSING LENDER
Member FDIC


YOUTH & E-CIGARETTES
BRAIN RISKS
Youth and young adults are also uniquely at risk for long-term, long-lasting effects of exposing their developing brains to nicotine. These risks include nicotine addiction, mood disorders, and permanent lowering of impulse control. Nicotine also changes the way synapses are formed, which can harm the parts of the brain that control attention and learning.
ADDICTION
Each time a new memory is created or a new skill is learned, stronger connections – or synapses – are built between brain cells. Young people's brain build synapses faster than adult brains. Because addiction is a form of learning, adolescents can get addicted more easily than adults. The nicotine in e-cigarettes and other tobacco products can also prime the adolescent brain for addiction to other drugs such as cocaine.
BEHAVIOUR RISKS
E-cigarette use among youth and young adults is strongly linked to the use of other tobacco products. Some evidence suggests that e-cigarette use is linked to alcohol use and other substance use, such as marijuana. And certain e-cigarette products can be used to deliver other drugs like marijuana.
Find out more about e-cigarettes at:
https://e-cigarettes.surgeongeneral.gov/
Tobacco Prevention & Control Program
Non-Communicable Disease Bureau
CHCC Division of Public Health
(670) 236-8710
i ♡ my tobacco-free cnmi
NON-COMMUNICABLE DISEASE BUREAU · CNMI ·

Make-A-Wish Guam and NMI celebrate 30 years

Make-A-Wish Guam and CNMI enjoyed a formal "Black Ties & Zories" benefit dinner at the Hyatt Regency Saipan ballroom last Friday, March 1, 2019.

Generous patrons and businesses gathered for an evening of fine food, drinks, dancing, silent auction, raffles, "Best Zories" contest and live entertainment by popular vocalist J.J. Concepcion and guest singer Louise Muña.

In total, the event raised over $37,000 in cash and in-kind donations toward granting wishes to CNMI's Wish Kids.

Board members Wendi Herring, Kanae Quinn, Jay Santos, Jay Jones, Jennifer Camacho, Louise Muña, Nate Taimanglo plus president/CEO Eric Tydingco and programs manager Kaleena Camacho were all present to join in the 30th anniversary celebration.

Some of the highlights of the evening included:

1) the recognition of outgoing board member Eleanor T. Cabrera, for her outstanding dedication and service to the organization.

2) the "Best Zories" contest won by Bob Jones with his checkered zories and Wish Kid Chloe Bernal with her Hello Kitty foam zories.

3) the celebration of former Wish Kids Juan Blanco, whose wish was to meet President Obama in 2010, and Chloe Bernal, whose wish was to go on a big shopping spree in 2016.

Make-A-Wish sincerely appreciates the tremendous support of the following companies and individuals who charitably contributed to the 30th anniversary Wish Night:

■ Top Donors: BFJ Corp., Bridge Capital, DFS Saipan, Fiesta Resort & Spa Saipan, Flametree TV/KSPN2 News, Gemkell Saipan, Gold's Gym, IT&E, Marianas Eye Institute, MarPac, *Marianas Variety*, McDonald's, Naked Fish Bar & Grill, Triple J Enterprises, and TSL Foundation.

■ Fantastic Donors: Bank of Guam, Bank of Saipan, D&Q International Distributors, Disneyland, Docomo Pacific, Island Touch by Philip, Joeten Enterprises, Joint Marketing, Kanoa Resort, Lollipops, Pacific Rim International, Pacific Trading Co., Skydive Saipan, and TakeCare.

■ Valued Donors: Chong's Corp., E-Land Corp., Godfather's Bar, Hasselback Law Office, Herman's Modern Bakery, Hyatt Regency Saipan, Island Greens, Island Training Solutions, KZMI, Let's Go Saipan, Matsumoto Farms, Natural Nail Spa, Pacific Wine & Spirits, Quinn Consulting, Revolving Restaurant 360, Saipan Brewing Co., SeaTouch, and Star Sands Plaza.

Make-A-Wish is also grateful to Concepcion and Muña, who donated their musical talent, while Reyna Saures and Romolo Orsini gave their time to emcee the event and keep the evening's festivities going.

There were seven student volunteers from Marianas High School's National Honor Society who assisted with registration and raffle sales: Mica Camacho Daphne Cruzat, Denzel Gatbonton, Shea Hartig, Alan Hinson, Andy Kim, and Tioni Reyes.

Make-A-Wish continues its work to transform dreams into reality. In addition, Make- A-Wish requests the community's support in helping with referrals for potential CNMI Wish Kids who face critical illnesses. Anyone in our community can make a referral so let us know of any family whose child (ages 2.5 to 17 years old) may be eligible. You may contact us through our local number (670) 483-9474 (WISH).

About

The foundation grants the wishes of children with critical illnesses. Founded in 1980 when a group of caring volunteers helped a young boy fulfill his dream of becoming a police officer, the Foundation is one of the world's leading children's charities, with 64 chapters in the United States and its territories. With the help of generous donors and nearly 25,000 volunteers, the Make-A-Wish Foundation grants a wish every 34 minutes and has granted more than 300,000 wishes in the United States since its inception.

For more information about the Make-A-Wish Foundation, visit guam.wish.org. ***(PR)***

VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT NO. 19-01
United States District Court for the Northern Mariana Islands

Official Court Reporter

Location: Saipan, U.S. Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands (CNMI)
Annual Pay: $88,429 to $101,693, depending on professional certification level.
(Inclusive of 13.01% regional COLA allowance.)
OPENING DATE: 03/04/19 • CLOSING DATE: 3/18/19 but will remain open until filled

Position Overview:
The official court reporter attends and records verbatim each session of the court and every other proceeding designated by rule or order of the court; certifies and files original notes with the clerk of the court; files certified transcripts of, or alternatively audio records, all arraignments, pleas, and sentencing proceedings; promptly transcribes the original records at the request of parties who have arranged payment; promptly transcribes the original records at the request of a judge at no charge to the court; files a certified copy of any transcript produced with the clerk of the court; follows Judicial Conference established fee and delivery schedules; maintains and files reports required by the Judicial Conference related to attendance, transcript production, and earnings; and furnishes supplies related to the production of transcripts at his or her own expense. Court reporters must comply with the Court Reporter Management Plan of this District. This is a full-time regular position with full federal employment benefits, paid leave and holidays, health insurance, life insurance and federal retirement benefits.

Minimum Qualifications and Preferred Qualifications:
- Have at least four (4) years of court reporting experience in the freelance field of service, or in other courts, or a combination thereof.
- Be qualified by testing for listing on the Registry of Professional Reporters (RPR) of the
- National Court Reporters Association (NCRA) or passed an equivalent qualifying examination.
- Possession of and skill in the use of computer-aided transcription equipment.
- Applicants with realtime certification are preferred. Realtime reporters must possess all necessary realtime equipment and software.
- Applicants must demonstrate sound ethics and judgment, be able to communicate effectively (orally and in writing) and have skill in using automated systems.

Citizenship Requirement:
Applicants are required to be U.S. citizens or aliens who are authorized to work in the U.S.

Notice to Applicants:
Excepted service appointments are "at will" and may be terminated by either the court or the employee at any time for any reason. Selectees are subject to a background investigation and suitability determination, and updated background investigations every five years. Employees are subject to the Judicial Code of Conduct. Direct deposit of payroll is required.

Application Procedure:
Each applicant is required to submit a Cover Letter, Resume, and an AO-78 application form. AO-78 forms are on the Internet at: http://www.nmid.uscourts.gov or may be picked up at the U.S. District Court. Applications received at the Clerk of Court Office in Saipan by March 18, 2019 at 2:00pm will be given preference.

Deliver signed applications to:
Clerk of Court
United States District Court
for the Northern Mariana Islands
123 Kopa Di Oru St
2nd Floor Horiguchi Bldg
Saipan, MP 96950

Or, email signed applications to:
HR@nmid.uscourts.gov

The United States District Court is an Equal Opportunity Employer.

Commonwealth Utilities Corporation
P.O. Box 501220, Saipan, MP 96950-1220 U.S.A.
Tel. Nos. (670) 664-4282 Fax (670) 235-5131

JOB VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT

JVA No. 19-029
Opening Date: Thursday, March 7, 2019
Closing Date: Until filled

SUPERVISOR, WASTEWATER TREATMENT PLANT OPERATIONS (SAIPAN) ("OS")

Duties: The Commonwealth Utilities Corporation ("CUC") is a government utility providing power, water, and wastewater services in the Northern Mariana Islands 9NMI), a U.S. commonwealth in the western pacific. The incumbent of this position is under the direct supervision of the Drinking Water and Wastewater Division Manager or "DM" (also known as the Division Manager for Water and Wastewater) who will reports directly to the Deputy Executive Director or "DED" (also known as the Deputy Director for Water and Wastewater). This position is sometimes referred to with a slightly different word combination; but the key term is "OS". The OS will oversee the STP operations on Saipan. This position is as required by paragraph 11 of Stipulated Order Number One of the United States of America vs. the Commonwealth Utilities Corporation and the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana islands. Additional duties and responsibilities are as directed and required. SUBJECT TO PRE-EMPLOYMENT DRUG SCREENING.

LOCATION : **Wastewater Division, SAIPAN, Northern Mariana Islands, USA**
SALARY : $56,439.00 to 77,479.00 per annum, Exempt
(Commensurate with Qualification and Experience)
POSITION : One (1)
CONTRACT : Two (2) years, subject to renewal.

RELOCATION EXPENSES: If hired from outside the CNMI, relocation expenses are negotiable; but they are not to exceed $5,000.00 for moving to Saipan and not to exceed $5,000.00 for moving away from Saipan. Receipts will be required for justification. Other conditions may be applicable.

MINIMUM QUALIFICATIONS:
Licensing Requirement: A current Grade III (Level 3) Wastewater Treatment Plant Operator's Certificate from the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency or from an authorized alternative (such as from the NMI Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ).

Education: Completion of two (2) years of college, with major courses in sciences, math, or other appropriate fields.

Experience: Three (3) years of experience as a supervisor in a wastewater treatment plant utilizing activated sludge secondary treatment processes.

Skills: Demonstrate proven supervisory and communication skills.

Knowledge: Thorough knowledge of the operating principles and maintenance requirements of an activated sludge wastewater treatment plant that operates at a capacity of at least one and a half (1-1/2) mgd, including primary and secondary treatment processes, oxygen production, and sludge digestion and dewatering.

SUBMISSION PROCESS:
Please submit (1) a cover letter, (2) a resume, (3) a list of references, and (4) a CUC Employment Application by one of the following means:

1. United States Postal Service, First Class Mail or Priority Mail*:
   Human Resource Office
   Commonwealth Utilities Corporation
   P. O. Box 501220
   Saipan, MP 96950-1220 USA
   *If you choose to submit via USPS, please still also fax "or" email "or" drop off your package.
2. Fax: 670-235-5131
3. Email: employment.applications@cucgov.org
4. Drop Off: Drop off your package at the CUC Human Resource Office located on the 3rd Floor of the Joeten Dandan Building on Saipan. Otherwise, you may drop it off at the CUC Tinian or Rota Administration Office.

POLICIES: The Commonwealth Utilities Corporation is an equal opportunity provider and employer and will not discriminate or tolerate discrimination against any employee or applicant in any manner prohibited by law.

It is also the policy of CUC to achieve a drug-free workplace and persons selected for employment will be required to pass a drug test which screens for illegal drug use prior to final appointment.

COMMUNITY BRIEFS

Kagman cluster to have PTSA meeting

This is to inform all parents, guardians, and the community that the Kagman cluster of schools will be having a Parents Teachers Students Association meeting on Tuesday, March 12, 2019, at 5:30pm in the Kagman Elementary School cafeteria. We are encouraging all parents, and guardians to attend this meeting. Call the school at 237-3921, 664-4100, or 664-3911 if you have any questions or concerns. ***(PR)***

Class of 1981 reunion meeting

Attention to all Marianas High School Class of 1981 and off-island graduate(s) in Guam and the U.S. mainland that there will be a 1981 class reunion meeting on Thursday, March 21, 2019, starting at 6pm at the Tech-NIC Computer above Sherwin Paint across Bank of Hawaii on Middle Road. ***(PR)***

Register for NMC's spring semester

Northern Marianas College is reminding all individuals interested in furthering their education that they still have until March 23, 2019, to register for the upcoming spring semester.

■ Registration for ongoing and new students via Proa Portal: Ongoing until March 23, 2019

■ First day of classes: April 1, 2019

NMC will be also having a free information session on March 21, 2019, from 5:30pm to 6:30pm at the college's Olympio T. Borja Library. It is open to all prospective students and interested community members. Those who would like to apply for admission or register for classes can attend the info session.

For more information about registering for classes for the upcoming spring 2019 semester or to apply for admission, contact NMC's Office of Admissions and Records at 237-6768/6769/6771 or visit www.marianas.edu. ***(PR)***

Zoning Office closed today

The Zoning Office will be closed today, March 8, 2019, from 1:30pm to 4:30pm, for staff training. Normal working hours will resume on Monday, March 11, 2019. ***(PR)***

Military training at old golf course

ASAN, Guam—The 31st Marine Expeditionary Unit will conduct training at the former Adm. Nimitz Golf Course in Barrigada today, March 8, from 6am to 11:55pm.

The public should be advised that routine training often accompanied with the use of blanks can occur during training.

These types of trainings are designed to enhance the readiness of military personnel. Residents in surrounding areas should not be alarmed if they see or hear increased activity associated with the training. ***(PR)***

CHamoru commission meetings set

The Kumisión i Fino' CHamoru yan i Fina'nå'guen i Historia yan i Lina'la' i Taotao Tåno' *(Commission on CHamoru Language and the Teaching of the History and Culture of the Indigenous People of Guam)* will hold it monthly meetings on March 14 and 28, 2109, Thursdays, from 12:30pm to 3pm, in the Garden House, Plaza De Espana, Hagatna.

Agenda items include but are not limited to: approval of minutes, reports from the chair, vice-chair, secretary and committee chairs, fiscal year 2019 financial matters, second set of orthography training, strategic plans and implementation updates, and Year of Indigenous Language activities.

Work sessions will also be held on Thursday, March 7 and 21, 2019, 12:30pm—3pm at the same venue.

For more information contact Kumisión chair/Gé'helo' Hope Alvarez Cristobal at 483-0097 or secretary/Sikritåria Rosa Salas Palomo at 727-5522. ***(PR)***

Military trainings set

ASAN, Guam—Military units participating in COPE North 2019 is conducting training at the island of Farallon de Medinilla until today, March 8, from 8am to 7pm.

Also, Helicopter Sea Combat Squadron 25 and the 31st Marine Expeditionary Unit is conducting training at the former Adm. Nimitz Golf Course in Barrigada until today, March 8, from noon to 4pm.

Military units participating in Surface Warfare Advanced Tactical Training 2019 will conduct training from midnight to 11:59pm, March 7-10, at Warning Area 517.

It is recommended the public, fishermen and marine tour operators monitor the Coast Guard broadcast notice to mariners for advisories.

The general location of the training on the island of Farallon de Medinilla will be in a 12-nautical mile radius of the island.

The public should be advised that routine helicopter training often accompanied with the use of blanks can occur during training at the former Adm. Nimitz Golf Course. ***(PR)***

Scheduled power interruptions

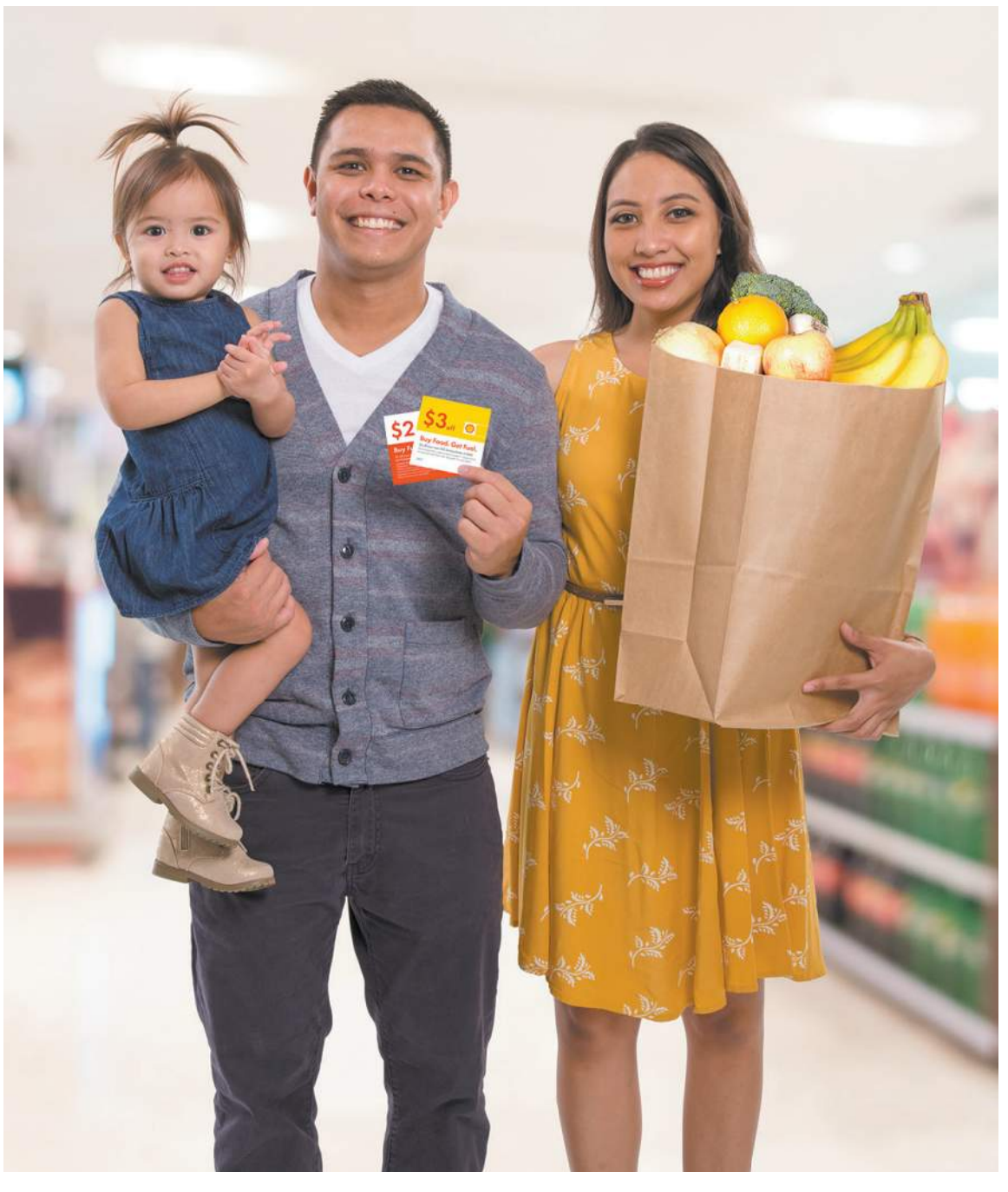
The Commonwealth Utilities Corp. would like to inform the public that there will be scheduled power interruptions on the following dates, times and locations:

- **Sunday, March 10, 2019 – 8am to 4pm**
  - **Outage type:** Sectionalized Feeder outage on the Feeder 4 distribution circuit
  - **Village location:** Capital Hill Road
  - **Power service area(s) affected:** 13th Hundred Block Capital Hill, Talafofo, As Teo, Santa Lourdes and Papago
  - **Water service area(s) affected:** Capital Hill, Tapochao, Talafofo, As Teo, Santa Lourdes and Papago
  - **Wastewater service area(s) affected:** None
  - **Pole replacement(s):** 8
- **Monday, March 11, 2019 – 8am to 1pm**
  - **Outage type:** Lateral outage on the Feeder 4 distribution circuit
  - **Village location:** Talafofo Road
  - **Power service area(s) affected:** Talafofo
  - **Water service area(s) affected:** None
  - **Wastewater service area(s) affected:** None
  - **Pole replacement(s):** 5
- **Monday, March 11, 2019 – 8am to 4pm**
  - **Outage type:** Sectionalized feeder outage on the Kiya 1 distribution circuit
  - **Village location:** Isa Drive, Lower Papago
  - **Power service area(s) affected:** Lao Lao Bay and Lower Papago
  - **Water service area(s) affected:** None
  - **Wastewater service area(s) affected:** None
  - **Pole replacement(s):** 9

The purpose of the emergency power interruptions is to de-energize utility lines and allow power line workers from the CUC contracting company, Primary Source Electric, to safely replace 22 wooden poles with concrete ones along the villages of Capital Hill, Talafofo and Lower Papago. The emergency power interruptions are part of CUC's resiliency program aimed at hardening and strengthening the power distribution system that was affected by Super Typhoon Yutu.

Because of the scale of work that will be performed, CUC asks travelers to take alternate routes or to exercise caution when driving through the working area.

For more information, contact the CUC Customer Call Center (664-4282) or monitor its Facebook page for the latest updates (https://www.facebook.com/CommonwealthUtilitiesCorporation/). ***(PR)***


BUY FOOD.
GET FUEL.
With every $25 fuel purchase, receive a coupon for $2 off your next purchase of $25 or more at participating Joeten stores. Plus, when you spend $25 at Joeten, you'll receive a coupon for $3 off your next Shell fuel purchase of $25 or more. Buy fuel, get food today!
*Some conditions apply. See store for details.

Opinion

Hafa Adai!
Saipan Tribune
THE CNMI'S FIRST DAILY NEWSPAPER
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Jayvee L. Vallejera EDITOR
editor@saipantribune.com

Mark Rabago ASSOCIATE EDITOR
mark_rabago@saipantribune.com

MEMBER

The Associated Press | Pacific Islands News Association

EDITORIAL

Sexting teens are not pornographers

Teens who make the mistake of texting nude photos of themselves to a friend should be treated like stupid kids, not criminals.

A smart bipartisan proposal in the state Legislature would remove the potential of a felony sex offense for sending these pictures—unless they are being used for harassment, extortion or another crime.

Current law allows teens to be labeled as sex offenders for texting intimate pictures of themselves to their friends. The state's child pornography laws do not distinguish between teen sexting and adults who take explicit photos of children for exploitation, which is also known as distributing child pornography.

House Bill 1742, which passed in the House Monday, takes a measured approach to modernizing state law to reflect a world where nearly every teen carries and communicates prolifically with his or her own cellphone. It would decriminalize the act of minors sharing their own revealing selfies with other teens aged 13 or older and not consider it child pornography.

Sharing intimate photos may not be something their parents endorse, but the teens who do it should not spend up to 30 days in juvenile detention, pay up to a $500 fine and be placed on the adult sex offender registry.

The proposal, sponsored in the House by Rep. Noel Frame, D-Seattle, and in the Senate by Sen. Manka Dhingra, D-Redmond, does not condone this behavior; it says teens distributing their own photos should not be treated the same as adults dealing in child pornography.

Appropriately, teens who distribute photos or videos of others teens who are naked or engaged in sex acts could still be punished severely. HB 1742 creates new legal categories in the law that would punish teens for distributing such pictures further, either by selling them, disseminating them or financing their creation. Juveniles charged under these new categories in criminal law could find themselves guilty of a felony, just like the current adult law.

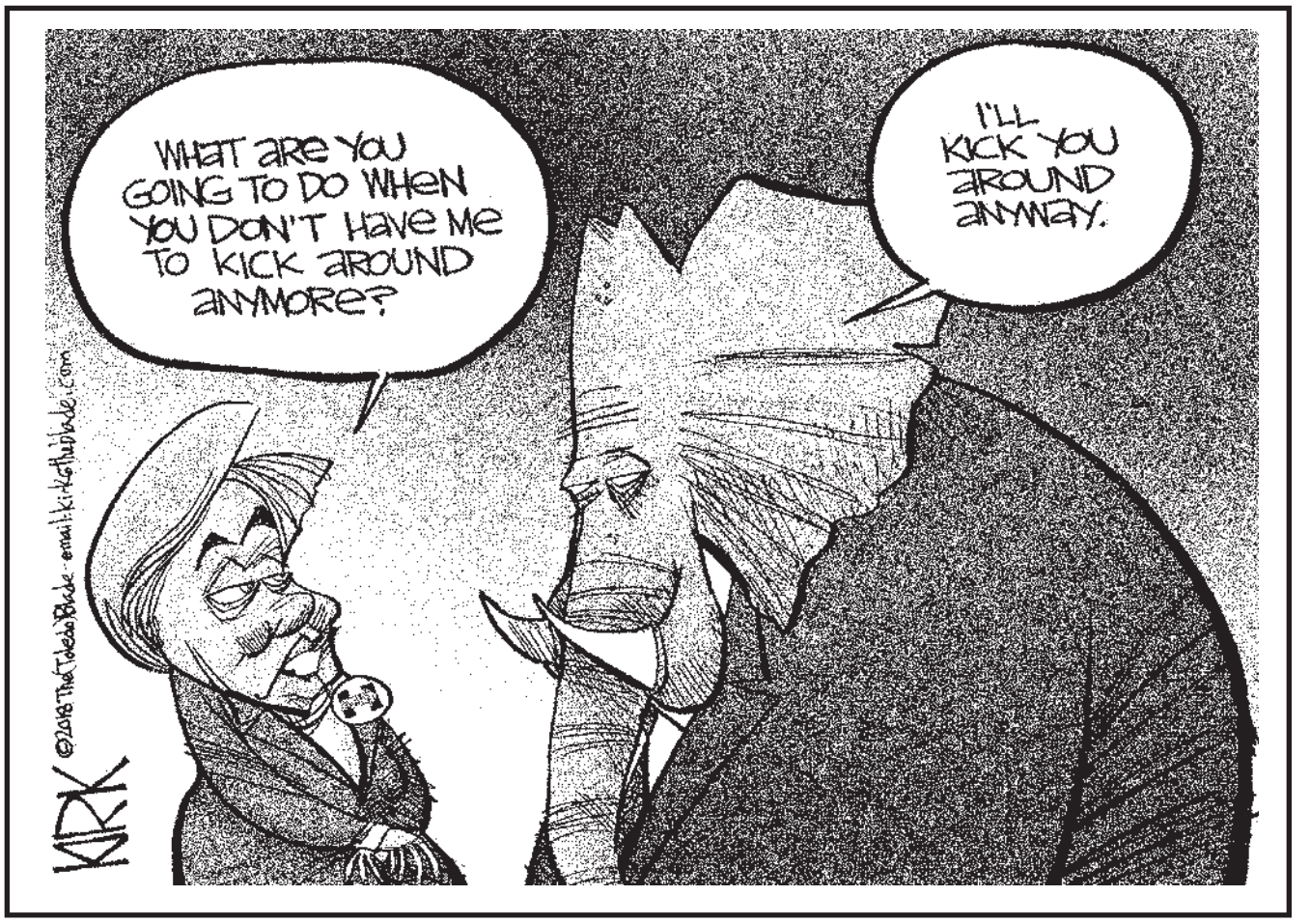
The proposal also would allow teens distributing these pictures of other minors age 13 or older to be diverted to community service and counseling instead of serving time in youth detention. Penalties for malicious distribution would still apply.

The bill would also create a work group to make recommendations to the Legislature regarding age-appropriate prevention and intervention strategies. Both criminal and defense attorneys testified that this new approach to teen sexting is long overdue.

The bill balances the need to appropriately punish teens who are harassing other minors, while exempting those who share these images of themselves with their friends.

Adolescents should not be labeled child pornographers for taking naked selfies and texting them to their friends. The Legislature should pass House Bill 1742 so these young people will not continue to pay for their teen indiscretions as adults.

(c)2019 The Seattle Times


WHAT ARE YOU GOING TO DO WHEN YOU DON'T HAVE ME TO KICK AROUND ANYMORE?
I'LL KICK YOU AROUND ANYWAY.
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KIRK

Here's hoping 'ISIS bride' reads 'The Man Without a Country'

By JOHN KASS
Chicago Tribune

John Kass is a columnist for the Chicago Tribune. *Readers may send him email at jskass@chicagotribune.com*

Has Hoda Muthana, 24, the so-called ISIS bride who joined the terrorist group at 19 and was widowed twice, ever heard of Civil War-era writer Edward Everett Hale?

I'd bet the answer is "No."

And that's unfortunate.

Because now I can't very well ask Muthana about Hale's famous story, "The Man Without a Country."

In part, that's because she's in a Syrian refugee camp, doing interviews and seeking pity from Americans as leverage against President Donald Trump, so she can get home to her family in Alabama and raise her baby boy in the good old U.S. of A.

"I realized I've made a big mistake and I know I've ruined my future and my son's future and I deeply, deeply regret it," she told the *Guardian* newspaper.

Being a victim is what it's all about now. That's her only play, to be a victim.

Hoda Muthana

The ISIS bride is 24 now, a little older than my sons. She ran away from home at 19, made her way to Syria and joined ISIS, was married three times and widowed twice.

That's the thing about ISIS members: When they're not chopping the heads off Christians, Muslims and American journalists, they have a habit of getting killed themselves.

When she left America as a teenager, I've got a feeling ISIS bride wasn't condemning the monsters who took heads or burned people alive or drowned them in cages in the name of their god.

And I really don't think they teach Hale much in school these days, nor do schools teach civics that much.

Civics? You mean how government works and what, if any, are the responsibilities of American citizens?

Clearly, that kind of thing isn't taught in schools. If it were, then 60 percent of Americans wouldn't have failed a basic citizenship exam put out by the Woodrow Wilson National Fellowship. The group surveyed 41,000 Americans on basic questions about American history and government. But why would schools teach civics?

Now, if the fellowship had only given a test on whom Tristan Thompson cheated on Khloe Kardashian with, then many Americans would pass.

Ask people about the release date of "Game of Thrones" Season 8 and they'll know. But ask Americans how a bill is passed, or if abolishing the Electoral College would be the fastest way to destroy the republic and bring us to the brink of "Hunger Games"?

Meh.

Americans do know about becoming victims, though, and having victim status conferred upon them by media.

One thing we know about being a victim is that whatever the transgression or alleged crime, it's not your fault, it's someone else's fault, and they don't like you and therefore, they should pay.

And it helps if you look good on TV.

Muthana is an attractive woman, a seemingly devout Muslim, a mother who speaks in measured, thoughtful tones on TV.

She's a perfect victim, except of course for the stubborn facts of her earlier tweets. Muthana wasn't much concerned about the victim status of Syrian Orthodox Christians when, inside ISIS territory, in the Valley of the Christians, they were told to either convert and abandon their faith, pay a fine or die.

Consider her tweets when she called for American blood.

"Go on drive-bys and spill all of their blood, or rent a big truck and drive all over them," she tweeted in March 2015, as reported by *The New York Times*.

And that's exactly what some terrorists did, in the U.S. and in Europe.

President Donald Trump has said he doesn't want her in the country. Secretary of State Mike Pompeo explained further while doing an interview on WOC Radio in Iowa:

"This is a woman who went online and tried to kill young men and women of the United States of America," Pompeo said. "She advocated for *jihad*, for people to drive vans across streets here in the United States and kill Americans."

See BRIDE on Page 17

Flashback Friday

By ED STEPHENS JR.
Special to the Saipan Tribune

Visit Ed Stephens Jr. at EdStephensJr.com. His column runs every Friday.

I'm not much of a picture taker, but when I saw a MiG-21 jet on display at a museum I went full shutter-bug and burned though my last roll of film. Do you know they don't sell that stuff any longer? I'm always the last to get the memo. Anyway, the MiG-21 has been back in the news. It's still seeing action 63 years after its first flight. Its latest headlines came via last week's skirmish between India and Pakistan in which an Indian MiG-21 was downed.

Many Cold War veterans will remember the MiG-21, if only by photo or reputation. So let's go retro today. Let's make it a Flashback Friday.

The MiG-21 is unmistakable at a glance, even in silhouette. Or, perhaps, especially in silhouette. It's recognizable by, among other attributes, the pointy intake cone on its nose and the very un-dainty raked slab it uses for a vertical stabilizer. It looks like it's going fast even when it's sitting still. Some Soviet weapons had a spooky-looking functionality to them. The MiG-21 was a prime example.

Over 11,000 were built, including some under license in foreign countries such as India. The thing was said to be cheap (by jet standards) and it was fast because it was designed for service as an interceptor.

In this role the North Vietnamese employed the MiG-21 with effect and downed a number of American aircraft in the Vietnam war.

The Chinese built a MiG-21 derivative, the J-7, and an export version, the F-7. Both the J-7 and F-7 are still in service.

There are some things from the Cold War that can cast a shadow over more recent times. Once, for example, when I was on a road trip through an expanse of nothingness in the western U.S., a bright green flash suddenly appeared and streaked through the night sky. It completely startled me.

And I thought: Screaming Mega-Zonker, one o'clock! Battle stations! Fire for effect! Furthermore, screw the speed limit and, come to think of it, there's no need to save that last bag of beef jerky, either.

After I ripped open the jerky provisions I pulled Red Sovine out of the cassette deck and put in Missing Persons. The latter choice just seemed more appropriate.

It soon occurred to me, however, that the flash must have been a meteor. So, yeah, false alarm. It's too bad I couldn't recall my retaliatory salvo of imaginary missiles, which meant that some imaginary enemies were going to get their hair mussed. But nukes were the least of my problems. That's because I couldn't find my Red Sovine tape. I rolled the rest of the way to Pocatello nursing a sense of gloom. There's a certain sentimental momentum that goes with road trips. If you mess things up it's hard to recapture the mojo.

But where were we? Oh, yeah, retro aircraft. The MiG-21 isn't the only old warrior still standing watch. As for the U.S. military, it still operates a number of '50s vintage designs, such as the C-130 and the KC-135. There are other such aircraft so maybe I'll gin up a list someday.

In the meantime, I will note that the oldest I'm aware of is Boeing's eight-engine superstar, the B-52 bomber. The B-52 first flew in 1952.

The B-52 rivals the MiG-21 for having memorable and business-like looks. I used to fly regional airline service between Guam and Saipan, and I remember the first time we saw the distinct shape of B-52s on the ramp at Guam's Andersen AFB.

"Did you see the B-52s down there?" I asked the other pilot.

"Yeah. Cool!"

"I ain't seen heavy iron like that at Andersen before."

"I ain't, neither. Maybe something's up."

"Could be. Hey, want some beef jerky?"

"I thought you were saving that for later."

"I changed my mind."

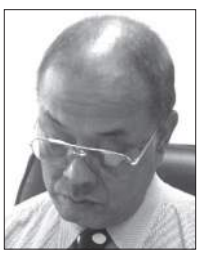
Live it up, that's what I say. Life is short. After all, just because all the other alarms were false doesn't mean that, well, oh, let's just forget it.

Anyway, here's to the old iron, wherever in the world it may be, as it zooms into the headlines, into the future, and even into the past. Kick the tires, light the fires, and, as they might say out west, Giddyup go!

Healthcare policy

By JOHN S. DELROSARIO JR.
Special to the Saipan Tribune

John DelRosario Jr. is a former publisher of the Saipan Tribune *and a former secretary of the Department of Public Lands. All views expressed by the author are his/her own and do not necessarily reflect the opinion and stance of the* Saipan Tribune.



A major national daily carried a story of a proposal for a government-only provided healthcare plan. It includes getting rid of Medicaid, Medicare and would cost the taxpayers more than $40 trillion over the next 10 years. We're part of Medicaid and Medicare, thus it's good to know what's the score on this plan.

The proposal would eliminate private insurance firms while killing nearly two million jobs across the country. Some important facts include the following:

(1) The bill "doesn't include a price tag or specific proposals for financing the new system, which analysts estimate would cost about $40 trillion over the next 10 years, according to a Town Hall story.

(2) Via NBC News, "The legislation's most contentious provision would end private health insurance and replace it with a government system." Yes, virtually all private coverage would be outlawed, forcing every single American into an innovation-crushing, government-run system. Approximately 177 million Americans currently receive private health insurance, either through their employers, or directly from insurers.

"The vast majority of these people are satisfied with their coverage, according to Gallup. *All* of these people would be uprooted from their existing plans and funneled into the federal bureaucracy.

The elimination of privately-run health insurance firms is seen by some experts as a "wrecking ball".

Has the CNMI registered its concerns with this plan or "not yet, already?" Interesting, though, a plan where the American Dream is complemented with handouts! Nah! It's too important an issue to sink as a consequence of political miscalculations.

■■■

Fatal lull: With eerie dead silence we retreated to the silent corners of our mind to ponder the beastly echo. It finally arrived in the form of various announcements reflecting our financial posture may be in shambles or do we localize it declaring, "not yet, already?"

For instance, I wasn't sure how to take the announcement that retirees may not be paid their 25 percent sometime next year, given the NMI's wobbly financial posture. Alternately, I was confused then amused at the disoriented tidings!

When would our esteemed men of wisdom admit that our fiscal posture is in dire straits? More importantly, what's your plan of action to reconcile the effects of serious economic contraction? Or is it an issue that conveniently escaped your nimble mind while basking in disorientation? It still is the economy, right, sonny?

The recent exit of Nippon investments ($7 billion) should have raised a huge red flag, warning to the elected elite that the comfortable rug is no longer under their feet. Would anyone with any decent depth of perception treat this as a fly by cotton ball? People: it funds and supports basic services and the quality of life for people you represent. Yet, you stand idly by as if it's inconsequential!

Then there's the infinitesimal wisdom to saddle consumers a bit more on utilities. Isn't it true that nearly 15,000 employees are earning poverty income today? Why would you sink them further into the swamp of abject poverty?

■■■

Gone! For most politicians here the exit of Nippon investments from the islands seems "business as usual." They stand idly by when our house is on economic fire. Whatever happened using depth of perception in this case? Did you leave it in your back pockets, again?

See HEALTHCARE on Page 17

Protecting CUC

By EDWIN K. PROPST
Special to the Saipan Tribune

Edwin K. Propst is a member of the House of Representative in the 21st CNMI Legislature.

The $690,000 emergency procurement of a 27-year-old, used 2-megawatt backup generator for Rota is just the latest example of how CUC ratepayers in the Commonwealth continue to be taken advantage of. Here are some additional examples:

- a $190-million sole source power plant purchase that led to the impeachment of a former sitting governor;
- a $180-million reverse osmosis system that would have tripled the water rates for CUC customers while still failing to address water leaks and water theft; and
- the fraudulent emergency purchase of an 8- to 10-megawatt generator that led to two oversight hearings and the discovery of fraud and collusion and the eventual removal of a former CUC board.

And there are more examples of the fleecing of CUC, but we can save those for a future letter.

Here's the first of three questions that should be asked by CUC ratepayers, the Office of the Attorney General, and the Office of the Public Auditor about this $690,000 emergency procurement purchase of a 27-year-old, used 2-megawatt backup generator for Rota: Is this the best deal we can get?

As I write this, there are replacement parts, sitting on Saipan, for a Caterpillar generator already on Rota. The parts are in a container, ready to be shipped. If this container were to be delivered to Rota tomorrow and used to repair a generator already on Rota, it would save CUC ratepayers from paying $690,000 for a backup generator. Since the parts are already here on Saipan and it would take a day or less to get to Rota, once the generator is repaired and rehabilitated by qualified mechanics, this generator could be the backup generator Rota needs right now.

There is also another option. CUC purchased a brand-new 2-megawatt generator engine from Singapore-based M&E Engineering & Logistics Supply, and this engine is expected to be on Saipan within two to four months from the NTP (notice to proceed) date, which was near the end of January. This brand-new engine cost $315,000, and that includes shipping costs to Saipan. This $315,000 price tag is less than half the cost of the $690,000 backup generator. More importantly, once this brand-new engine is installed (installation is estimated to take one to two weeks), it will be the primary power source for Rota.

A best-case scenario is this $315,000 brand-new engine could be up and running by the first week of April. A worst-case scenario is that it won't be installed until the first or second week of June. If the CUC board and management were to contact M&E and provide incentives or pay perhaps an additional $50,000 for this brand-new engine to be expedited, it would still save the CNMI $640,000.

It is important to note that once this brand-new engine from M&E is running, the 2-megawatt Mitsui engine, which is currently running Rota's power and was rehabilitated just a few days ago, will be the primary backup generator for Rota. And once the Caterpillar generator parts that are stranded on Saipan finally get sent to Rota and the Caterpillar generator is repaired, this rehabilitated engine could be the second backup generator for Rota. And as a third option and as a last resort, there is the Rota Resort generator, which may be expensive at 19 cents per kilowatt hour but is still an available emergency option and would be used only should Rota need emergency backup power and everything else fails.

A second question that must be asked by CUC ratepayers, the attorney general, and the public auditor: Why are CUC ratepayers paying for the rental of a crane when this expense should clearly be paid for by Rota Terminal and Transfer), the company that is solely responsible for Rota's stevedoring operations?"

This crane has been down for many months, and what has CPA done thus far to get the crane back in operation? How is it even legal that CUC ratepayers should shoulder the costs of renting, shipping, and operating an 80-ton crane when RT&T is responsible for crane operation and CPA is responsible for enforcement of RT&T's contractual obligations? For the past

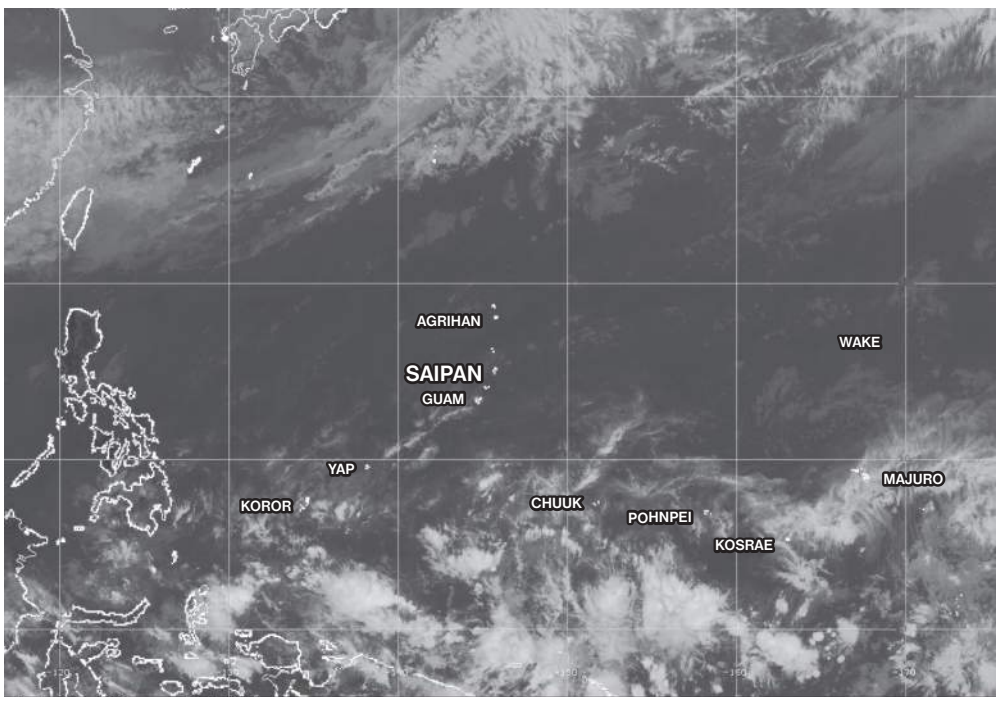
See PROTECTING on Page 17

The Weather

5-DAY FORECAST FOR SAIPAN AND TINIAN

TODAY	SATURDAY	SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY
Partly cloudy with a slight chance of showers. East winds 10 to 20 mph.	Partly sunny with isolated showers. Northeast winds 15 to 20 mph.	Mostly cloudy with isolated showers.	Mostly cloudy with isolated showers.	Partly cloudy with isolated light showers.
87° 76°	87° 76°	85° 76°	85° 76°	87° 77°

YESTERDAY'S SATELLITE IMAGE



PICTURE TIME: 5:46 AM, THURSDAY, MARCH 7, 2019
Western North Pacific between equator and 25N from 130E to 180.

A dry trade-wind pattern remains in place across the region with only spotty light showers on the radar. Buoys and altimetry data show seas between 5 and 6 feet across the Marianas.

Satellite image and accompanying information are provided by the National Weather Service. For an updated weather forecast, visit the National Weather Service Guam homepage: www.prh.noaa.gov/guam/

MICRONESIA	▲ ▼ °F	
Guam and Rota	Partly Cloudy	85° / 76°
Palau	Partly Cloudy	85° / 76°
Yap	Showers	86° / 79°
Chuuk	Cloudy	85° / 80°
Pohnpei	Partly Cloudy	85° / 79°
Kosrae	Showers	85° / 79°
Majuro	Showers	84° / 79°

AROUND THE GLOBE	▲ ▼ °F	
Auckland	Mostly Sunny	73° / 66°
Beijing	Partly Cloudy	57° / 36°
Hong Kong	Rain	72° / 63°
Honolulu	Partly Cloudy	76° / 66°
London	Partly Cloudy	54° / 45°
Los Angeles	Rain	61° / 56°
Manila	Mostly Sunny	93° / 73°
Melbourne	Mostly Sunny	77° / 63°
Miami	Partly Cloudy	77° / 71°
New York	Cloudy	37° / 29°
Osaka	Mostly Cloudy	57° / 46°
Paris	Showers	55° / 46°
Busan	Cloudy	59° / 50°
Rome	Cloudy	63° / 48°
Salem	Partly Cloudy	69° / 52°
San Francisco	Sunny	52° / 45°
Seoul	Cloudy	54° / 37°
Tokyo	Mostly Sunny	63° / 46°
Washington, DC	Partly Cloudy	40° / 33°

NMI CRIME STOPPERS
Anonymous tips can now be submitted through the following:
- Call 234-7272 (PARA) on any telephone
- *11 on any IT&E cellular phone
- Log on to the internet at www.nmicrimestoppers.net

TIDES: SAIPAN HARBOR TODAY		FEET
02:55 AM	HIGH TIDE	0.13
09:09 AM	LOW TIDE	1.87
3:19 PM	HIGH TIDE	0.66
8:49 PM	LOW TIDE	1.84

DAY	SUNRISE	SUNSET
Today	6:30 AM	6:25 PM
Saturday	6:29 AM	6:26 PM
Sunday	6:28 AM	6:26 PM
Monday	6:28 AM	6:26 PM
Tuesday	6:27 AM	6:26 PM

DAY	MOONRISE	MOONSET	MOONRISE
Today	6:52 AM	6:56 PM	-
Saturday	7:29 AM	7:43 PM	-
Sunday	8:45 AM	9:20 PM	-
Monday	9:24 AM	10:10 PM	-
Tuesday	10:06 AM	11:03 PM	-

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FLIGHT SCHEDULE AS OF MARCH 5, 2019

DEPARTURES

SAIPAN-GUAM (GUM)

UA117	9:15am	9:55am	Daily
UA105	6:25pm	7:05pm	2, 4

SAIPAN-BUSAN (PUS)

7C3451	3:15am	6:30am	1, 4, 5, 7

SAIPAN-SEOUL (ICN)

OZ626	2:10am	6:00am	1
OZ626	2:50am	6:40am	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7
7C3403	4:35am	8:25am	Daily
7C3401	4:30pm	8:25pm	Daily

SAIPAN-SHANGHAI (PVG)

3U8648	6:10am	8:50am	1, 4, 5, 7

SAIPAN-HANGZHOU (HGH)

JD396	7:30am	11:00am	1
JD396	4:50pm	7:55pm	4

SAIPAN-GUANGZHOU (CAN)

3U8646	4:30am	7:55am	2, 6

SAIPAN-BEIJING (PEK)

MU764	1:30am	6:35am	3, 5, 7

SAIPAN-MANILA (MNL)

UA117/183	9:15am	9:00pm	Daily via GUM
UA117/193	9:15am	11:50pm	2, 5 via GUM-ROR
UA105/1936:25pm		11:50pm	2 via GUM-ROR

SAIPAN-HONG KONG (HKG)

HX077	1:50am	5:15am	1, 4
OZ626/721	2:10am	11:50am	1 via ICN
OZ626/721	2:50am	11:50am	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 via ICN
UO43	5:45am	8:40am	1, 3, 5, 7
UA117/159	9:15am	9:55pm	1, 3, 5, 6 via GUM
UA105/159	6:25pm	11:00pm	2, 4 via GUM

ARRIVALS

GUAM (GUM)-SAIPAN

UA174	7:30am	8:11am	Daily
UA104	4:50pm	5:31pm	2, 4

BUSAN (PUS)-SAIPAN

7C3452	9:35pm	2:00am+1	3, 4, 6, 7

SEOUL (ICN)-SAIPAN

7C3402	10:10am	3:30pm	Daily
OZ625	7:40pm	1:00am+1	7
OZ625	8:20pm	1:40am+1	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6
7C3404	10:10pm	3:40am+1	Daily

SHANGHAI (PVG)-SAIPAN

3U8647	10:20pm	4:50am+1	3, 4, 6, 7

HANGZHOU (HGH)-SAIPAN

JD395	8:05am	3:30pm	4
JD395	9:35pm	5:00am+1	7

GUANGZHOU (CAN)-SAIPAN

3U8645	7:55pm	2:40am+1	1, 5

BEIJING (PEK)-SAIPAN

MU763	4:40pm	12:30am+1	2, 4, 6

MANILA (MNL)-SAIPAN

UA182/174	00:40am	8:11am+1	3, 6 via GUM
UA192/174	9:45pm	8:11am+1	2, 5 via GUM-ROR
PR110/UA174	10:05pm	8:11am+1	Daily via GUM
UA184/174	10:55pm	8:11am+1	1, 3, 4, 6, 7 via GUM

HONG KONG (HKG)-SAIPAN

OZ722/625	1:15pm	1:00am+1	7 via ICN
OZ722/625	1:15pm	1:40am+1	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6 via ICN
HX076	5:15pm	00:15am+1	3, 7
UO42	6:50pm	1:45am+1	7
UO42	9:30pm	4:25am+1	2, 4, 6
UA116/174	10:50pm	8:11am+1	1, 3, 5, 6 via GUM
UA116/174	11:45pm	8:11am+1	2, 4 via GUM

LEGEND: Days: Monday (1), Tuesday (2), Wednesday (3), Thursday (4), Friday (5), Saturday (6) and Sunday (7); 3U Sichuan Airlines, 7C Jeju Air, DL Delta Airlines, JD Beijing Capital, UO HK Express, HX HongKong Airlines, MU China Eastern, OZ Asiana Airlines, TW t'way Air, UA United Airlines, PR PAL Express; ETD: Estimated Time of Departure; ETA: Estimated Time of Arrival. *(The* Saipan Tribune *is not responsible for any changes in the schedule.)*

STAR MARIANAS AIR, INC.

SAIPAN TO ROTA

FLIGHT #	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY
1301	7:30AM	8:00AM	Daily
1302	11:30AM	12:00PM	Daily
1303	4:00PM	4:30PM	Daily

ROTA TO SAIPAN

FLIGHT #	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY
3101	8:15AM	8:45AM	Daily
3102	1:45PM	2:15PM	Daily
3103	4:45PM	5:15PM	Daily

ROTA TO GUAM

FLIGHT #	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY
3401	12:15PM	12:45PM	Daily

GUAM TO ROTA

FLIGHT #	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY
4301	1:00PM	1:30PM	Daily

SAIPAN TO TINIAN

FLIGHT #	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY
1201	7:00AM	7:15AM	Daily
1202	8:00AM	8:15AM	Daily
1203	9:00AM	9:15AM	Daily
1204	10:00AM	10:15AM	Daily
1205	11:00AM	11:15AM	Daily
1206	12:00PM	12:15PM	Daily
1207	1:00PM	1:15PM	Daily
1208	2:00PM	2:15PM	Daily
1209	3:00PM	3:15PM	Daily
1210	4:00PM	4:15PM	Daily
1211	5:00PM	5:15PM	Daily
1212	6:00PM	6:15PM	Daily

TINIAN TO SAIPAN

FLIGHT #	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY
2102	7:30AM	7:45AM	Daily
2103	8:30AM	8:45AM	Daily
2104	9:30AM	9:45AM	Daily
2105	10:30AM	10:45AM	Daily
2106	11:30AM	11:45AM	Daily
2107	12:30PM	12:45PM	Daily
2108	1:30PM	1:45PM	Daily
2109	2:30PM	2:45PM	Daily
2110	3:30PM	3:45PM	Daily
2111	4:30PM	4:45PM	Daily
2112	5:30PM	5:45PM	Daily
2113	6:30PM	6:45PM	Daily

HEALTHCARE

From Page 15

Take a more critical look of the implications of a $7-billion loss. Wasn't there an announcement to cut expenses given the $7-million shortfall for the first quarter of this fiscal year? Didn't the NMI recently incur a $25-million deficit? Given the continuing pile of debts, the prospects of maintaining healthy fiscal posture ahead is woefully dim.

Encouragement: Encouraging our people to engage in small business investments ought to open the pathway for private industry expansion. A step in this direction should create more jobs and opportunities for employees to expand their income.

In simple terms it's known as "startups"—small businesses that foster jobs and wealth creation. Their establishment adds revenue to the local coffers via taxes paid employees and business gross receipts tax. It's issue now being critically reviewed in nations with advance economies to ensure continued growth.

I know that the hold back could be in the fact that the indigenous people never had a culture of entrepreneurship. But this just as good a time to make timely shift to rein in more income via a small family business.

There are funding opportunities for business startups including CDA and Farmers Home programs. A sense of courage and a willingness to break out on your own should get you exploring how to secure funds to begin a new business.

PROTECTING

From Page 15

several months, we have seen the people of Rota suffer because of this broken crane. How is this not prioritized? Why are there no penalties in place for the failure to abide by a contract that requires an operating crane? Who is responsible for enforcing this? The people of Rota are suffering because a contractual obligation is not being enforced, and now every CUC ratepayer must pay for it. This isn't right.

In the $690,000 procurement of this used 2-megawatt generator for Rota, there is a $160,000 freight charge included in the cost. That $160,000 charge is an astronomical price tag when you consider it costs less than $9,000 to ship a fully loaded 40-foot container from the East Coast to Saipan. Can this $160,000 shipping cost be explained and can invoices and receipts be provided? I would like to see them. I am sure the rest of the CNMI's CUC ratepayers would as well, and so too should the attorney general and the public auditor. But we have been told that the $160,000 shipping cost includes the shipment of an 80-ton crane. Because of the failure of CPA and RT&T to provide crane service for the people of Rota, should every CUC ratepayer in the CNMI have to see another increase in their utility rates to pay for this $690,000 backup generator that includes the shipping, plus the rental of an 80-ton crane? The only way to pay for this is to raise CUC rates, as this backup generator is not being paid for by the Department of the Interior or with federal money.

A third question that must be asked by the attorney general, the public auditor, and CUC ratepayers: After all the scandals we have seen at CUC, how is it possible that the CUC board and management has not created strict debarment rules and regulations that would suspend or ban nefarious companies and individuals from doing business with CUC?

Debarment rules and regulations exist to protect the interests of the federal and local government and its agencies. Debarment may be imposed when a contractor is convicted of or found civilly liable for any integrity offense. Integrity offenses include the following:

- Fraud or criminal offenses in connection with obtaining, attempting to obtain, or performing a public contract;
- Violations of federal or state anti-trust laws relating to the submission of offers;
- Embezzlement, theft, forgery, bribery, falsification or destruction of records;
- Making false statements, tax evasion, or receipt of stolen property; and
- Other offenses indicating a lack of business integrity or honesty that seriously affect the present responsibility of a contractor.

It is my sincere hope that CUC works with the Office of the Attorney General and the Office of the Public Auditor to develop debarment rules and regulations that can protect the interests of CUC and its ratepayers from future scandals or scams.

We all must be cognizant of the fact that our Commonwealth is faced with a huge deficit of over $26 million. Now more than ever is the time for every agency to be fiscally conservative and prudent in its spending and to carefully and thoroughly review every contract, most especially ones that may not be absolutely necessary. I urge the CUC board and its management to meticulously explore every option that I have mentioned before purchasing a 27-year-old, used 2-megawatt generator and paying for the rental of an 80-ton crane service that should be provided for by Rota's stevedoring company, RT&T. $690,000 is a significant amount of money, most especially when it may not need to be spent since there are other options on the table.

BRIDE

From Page 14

Though Muthana was born in the U.S., the daughter of a diplomat from Yemen, Pompeo and Trump insist she is not an American citizen. It's technical. The courts will decide.

"She's not a U.S. citizen. She has no claim of U.S. citizenship." Pompeo said. "In fact, she's a terrorist, and we shouldn't bring back foreign terrorists to the United States of America."

Her family's lawyer said she'd been brainwashed by ISIS. And she's told reporters it was all a terrible mistake, that she wants to be forgiven.

But how many 19-year-old boys make terrible mistakes, with guns in their hands? Our prisons are full of them.

In Hale's *The Man Without a Country*, the traitor Philip Nolan was given the opportunity to address the judges and plead mercy.

"Damn the United States!" Nolan cried. "I wish I may never hear of the United States again!"

His sentence terrified me. He was sentenced to a life at sea, forbidden to set one foot in America, forbidden to see her shores. And while he lived, Nolan was never to hear the words "The United States" again.

He lived a long life. But that's a story. Just like the ISIS bride who has been brainwashed is a story.

Her son is innocent. He should be brought here to be raised by her parents. And I think she's a citizen, since she was born here.

But citizens owe their county something.

I figure she owes 30 years in a federal penitentiary without parole.

JVA for YANO Enterprises, Inc.
dba: Kinpachi Japanese Restaurant
Kinpachi BBQ Garden Restaurant

Assistant Manager (1): Be able to assist the general manager in the supervision of business establishment to ensure the restaurant & stores efficiency & profitable operations; work closely with the personnel in preparation & processing of reservations, greets & answers customers inquiry, patrons complaints & resolve problems. Prepare advertising campaigns of the restaurant & stores to attract customers. Assist in doing daily inventory of foods, merchandise and assets of the business. Duties include but are not limited to delegating authority & assigning responsibilities, reviewing financial transactions & monitoring budget limitations, & be able to present written & oral reports on the company's financial & operational status. Must have Japanese oral skills & knowledge of Japanese food products.

Restaurant Supervisor (2): Must be qualified in restaurant operations, customer service, menu planning, & reservation operations. Must be responsible for the supervision of staff as to dining areas cleanliness in appearance & outside grounds. Ensure any customers issues are addressed immediately and resolved in a manner which exceeds the customer's expectation. Also need to have basic Japanese oral skills. Must have an extensive knowledge of Japanese food products & be able to make orders & preparations.

Accountant (1): Efficient in handling financial records, statements & reports. Analyze financial information & prepare entries to accounts such as general ledgers. Reports & records daily transactions, do filing & bookkeeping. Prepare financial statements, taxes, bank deposits balance sheets, profit & loss statements & other reports. Petty cash custodian, maintain inventory records. Estimates purchasing costs & requisitions of merchandise, items needed in the store, rest. & building maintenance or purchase merchandise, items to be sold or use.

Restaurant Waitress (1): Greeting Customers. Must be able to speak basic Japanese & efficient English & have a friendly & outgoing personality. Should be knowledgeable of the restaurant dishes, familiar with the entire menu the establishment offers. Can introduce & recommend daily specials as well as the restaurant's regular menu items. Continued services after the meal have been served and accept payments & other duties related.

Cook (4): Must be experienced & skilled in preparing Japanese cuisine including but not limited to sushi, sashimi, & tempura. Can prepare all menu items according to quantity menus, must know cutting and preparation techniques for each type of fish used in sushi rolls as well as how to prepare rice, sauces and seasonal ingredients, must ensure that ingredients are fresh, colorful and always in stock, that the all-important knives are sharp and clean, and that all equipment is in working order. Must be able to maintain kitchen & observe safety & sanitary food handling practices as well as other related duties.

General Maintenance (3): Must have a valid CNMI driver's license and flexible in work hours. Duties may involve skills in electrical, plumbing, carpentry, masonry, painting, landscape or maintain grounds of property using hand or power tools or equipment. Can typically perform variety of task such as sod laying, mowing, trimming, planting, watering, fertilizing, digging, raking and installing , repairing buildings, floors or stairs.

Additional Requirements: All applicants must be of good health and have a good moral character, must be able to follow grooming standards, must be able to obtain required food handler health certificate, must be able to provide current police clearance, with reliable transportation and must agree to drug test. Can work in flexible hours including holidays, weekends and night time schedules.

Applicants of all positions listed above **except Restaurant Waitress (1-3 months work experience)** are required to have a minimum of 2 - 4 year experience.

Application by phone call will not be accepted.

We are an equal opportunity employer. Qualified applicants will be considered.
Interested applicants must apply in person; applications can be picked up at MISA Building Kinpachi Restaurant in Coral Tree Avenue, Garapan.

Brilliant Star School
Global Understanding • Service to Humanity • Exemplary Character • Creative Minds

JOB VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT

POSITION/TITLE: Principal/Head of School
OPENING DATE: March 1, 2019
SUBMISSION DEADLINE: March 22, 2019

NATURE OF WORK:
The primary role of the Principal is to articulate the vision and mission of the school, provide academic leadership, take leadership in the admissions and recruitment process, build community among students and families: recruit and coach faculty members and staff, oversee the financial health of the school, serve as the school's primary spokesperson to the larger community, and lead the process of internal self-evaluation and long-term planning. The activities of the Principal are guided by the Board of Trustees.

QUALIFICATION REQUIREMENTS:
Graduation from U.S. accredited college or university with a Bachelor's or Master's degree in Education or related field, plus at least two years of teaching experience and two years of supervisory experience in a similar setting. A background in Montessori teaching or knowledge thereof is a plus.

SALARY/BENEFITS:
Salary commensurate with qualifications and experience, plus excellent benefits (Including 401K benefits, Health insurance, Paid Leave/Holidays.

ADDITIONAL QUALIFICATIONS:
- Good interpersonal and communication skills. Communicate effectively both orally and in writing, including giving and receiving feedback.
- Awareness of and sensitivity to cultural issues and local community practices.
- Ability to work as part of a team
- Ability to motivate others to reach their fullest potential.
- Excellent Office Automation Skills (Microsoft Word, Excel, Outlook, PowerPoint, Social Media).
- Excellent Record Keeping Skills/Filing & Document Management.
- Ability to adapt to changing situations.

Interested Applicants may obtain full job description and employment application form at the Brilliant Star office on Navy Hill or via email to Richard Sikkel at principal@brilliantstar.org. Completed application forms and required documents may be submitted at the Brilliant Star office or via email at principal@brilliantstar.org. The Brilliant Star office can be reached for inquires at (670) 323-7827

APPLICATION REQUIREMENTS:
1. Completed Brilliant Star Employment Application form
2. Resume
3. Copy of Diploma

Other documents may be requested and must be submitted to be considered for this position. Your application must be received on or before the submission deadline.

Business

China's Huawei launches court challenge to US security law

SHENZHEN, China (AP)—Chinese tech giant Huawei is launching a U.S. court challenge to a law that labels the company a security risk and would limit its access to the American market for telecom equipment.

Huawei Technologies Ltd.'s announcement Thursday comes as the biggest global maker of network equipment for phone and internet companies fights U.S. efforts to persuade allies to exclude the company from next-generation telecom systems.

Huawei said it filed a lawsuit asking a federal court in Plano, Texas, to throw out a portion of this year's U.S. military appropriations act that bars the government and its contractors from using Huawei equipment.

Huawei, China's first global tech brand, is at the center of U.S.-Chinese tensions over technology competition and cyber-spying. The company has spent years trying to put to rest accusations it facilitates Chinese spying or is controlled by the ruling Communist Party.

"We are compelled to take this legal action as a proper and last resort," the company's rotating chairman, Guo Ping, said at a news conference. Guo said the ban would limit competition, slowing the rollout of fifth-generation communications and raising consumer prices.

Huawei has about 40 percent of the global market for network gear but its U.S. sales evaporated after a congressional panel in 2012 cited the company and a Chinese competitor, ZTE Corp., as security risks and told phone carriers to avoid dealing with them.

U.S. authorities "have hacked our servers and stolen our emails" but have presented no evidence to support their security claims, Guo said. He complaining Washington was "sparing no effort to smear" the company.

Washington's campaign to persuade allies to shun Huawei threatens to block access to major markets as phone carriers prepare to invest billions of dollars in fifth-generation equipment.

Huawei says the new law would shrink its potential U.S. market further by prohibiting the government from buying the Chinese vendor's technology and from buying goods or services from or giving grants or loans to companies or other third parties that do. The United States accounts for 20 to 25 percent of the global market for computer and telecom technology.

AP
Huawei Rotating Chairman Guo Ping, center, speaks during a press conference in Shenzhen city, China's Guangdong province, Thursday, March 7, 2019.

The company is challenging the U.S. law as an unconstitutional "bill of attainder," or a measure that targets a specific individual for penalties without a trial. The company says that infringes its due process rights and improperly has Congress play the role of a court.

The ban is "based on numerous false, unproven and untested propositions," said Song Liuping, the company's chief legal officer, at the news conference. "Huawei has an excellent security record and program.No contrary evidence has been offered."

The Chinese government has accused Washington of fabricating or exaggerating security concerns to block a successful Chinese competitor.

Huawei, based in Shenzhen, near Hong Kong, is a leading developer of 5G along with rivals Nokia Corp. of Finland and Sweden's LM Ericsson. Industry analysts say excluding the Chinese vendor from markets for 5G equipment would reduce competition and might lead to higher prices.

Huawei, founded in 1987 by a former military engineer, overtook Ericsson in 2017 as the biggest global supplier of network gear. It says it supplies 45 of the world's top 50 phone companies and has contracts with 30 carriers to test 5G wireless technology.

Gas scarcity could turn Venezuela's crisis to catastrophe

MARACAIBO, Venezuela (AP)—Marin Mendez leaned a shoulder into his rusty Chevy Malibu, rolling it forward each time the line of cars inched closer to the pump. Waiting hours to fill up, he says, is the high cost he pays for gasoline that's nearly free in socialist Venezuela.

"You line up to get your pension, line up to buy food, line up to pump your gas," an exasperated Mendez said after 40 minutes of waiting in the sweltering heat in Maracaibo—ironically the center of the country's oil industry—and expecting to be there hours or days more. "I've had enough!"

Lines stretching a mile (kilometer) or more to fuel up have plagued this western region of Venezuela for years—despite the country's status as holder of the world's largest oil reserves. Now, shortages threaten to spread countrywide as supplies of petrol become even scarcer amid a raging struggle over political control of Venezuela.

The Trump administration hit Venezuela's state-run oil firm PDVSA with sanctions in late January in a sweeping strategy aimed at forcing President Nicolas Maduro from power in favor of opposition leader Juan Guaido.

Doomsday predictions immediately followed—mostly fueled by Maduro's opponents and U.S. officials—that Venezuela's domestic gasoline supplies would last no more than a week or so. That hasn't happened yet, but more misery is feared as expected shortages have economic implications far beyond longer gas lines, turning Venezuela's crisis to a catastrophe.

"Crucially, it will lead to more shortages of food and basic goods," said Diego Moya-Ocampos, a Venezuela analyst with the London-based consulting firm IHS Global Insight.

That's because the vast oil reserves that once made Venezuela Latin America's wealthiest country provide the primary source of the hard currency it needs to import food and other goods. Today, its basic infrastructure—roads, power grid, water lines and oil refineries—is crumbling. Food and medicine, nearly all of it imported, are scarce and expensive as Venezuela endures the world's highest inflation.

Critics blame Venezuela's collapse on the government's two decades of self-proclaimed "socialist revolution," which has been marred by corruption and mismanagement, first under the late Hugo Chavez and now under Maduro's rule.

The U.S. sanctions essentially cut PDVSA off from its Houston-based subsidiary Citgo, depriving it of $11 billion in hard currency from exports this year that U.S. officials say bankrolled Maduro's "dictatorship." U.S. officials have turned control of Citgo over to Guaido's interim government, essentially expropriating the company, a strategy Venezuela's socialist government employed for years by seizing private companies.

The Cruze cruises: GM assembly plant closing, maybe for good

LORDSTOWN, Ohio (AP)—The last compact car rolled off the line Wednesday at General Motors' massive assembly plant in Ohio as the automaker began moving toward its future while workers wondered about theirs.

GM is eliminating all 1,700 hourly positions, perhaps for good, at the factory near Youngstown, the first of five North American auto plants that it intends to shut down by early next year.

The plant closings are part of a major restructuring for GM, which plans to shed as many as 14,000 workers and shift its focus to making trucks, SUVs and electric and autonomous vehicles.

Most of the jobs being slashed companywide are white-collar positions. But there's still uncertainty about the fate of the plants because the closings still must be negotiated with the United Auto Workers later this summer.

There was a somber mood inside the plant, where more than 50 years of car manufacturing came to an end.

Workers took photos of the last Chevrolet Cruze, a car made in Lordstown since 2011 that has become a victim of consumer tastes in an era of inexpensive gasoline. It still will be made in Mexico for markets outside the U.S. The Cruze was the only vehicle made at the plant and will no longer be sold in the U.S. for now.

Signs with sayings such as "Save this Plant" were scattered outside the plant where about 100 workers gathered to say goodbye in the cold.

"It's frustrating," said Jeff Nance, who has worked at Lordstown for 17 years. "I'm angry and bitter. Watching that last car go by was a kick in the gut."

Like many workers, Shaun Winkler said he's still considering whether to transfer to another GM plant where there are openings.

"It started out as a normal day, but when that last car came into our area, and there was nothing but empty racks behind it, then it got sad," he said.

UAW 1112 President Dave Green said he took an emotional walk around the factory floor during the final shift.

"It's gut-wrenching. People were crying, they're frustrated and they feel like they've done everything right," Green said.

The UAW claimed in a recent federal lawsuit that its existing contract prohibits GM from idling plants.

Green has urged workers to remain hopeful, saying their fate will ultimately be decided at the bargaining table. The UAW's national contract with GM expires in mid-September.

President Donald Trump and a coalition of Ohio lawmakers have been pressuring the automaker to find a way to bring new work to the plant, which employed 4,500 people just two years ago but has been down to one shift since last summer.

Trump has shown a particular interest in the Lordstown plant, singling it out as one he wants to stay open. It's in area of the state that will be important to him in the 2020 election, and it's where he told supporters at a rally last year that manufacturing jobs are coming back.

STOCK PORTFOLIO

LEADING INDICATORS

DOW	S&P	NASDAQ
25,673.46	2,771.45	7,505.92
-133.17	-18.20	-70.44
-0.46%	-0.52%	-0.93%

EXCHANGE RATES

In U.S. dollar terms

Australian Dollar	1.42	Hong Kong Dollar	7.85	Russian Ruble	65.9
British Pound	0.7586	Indian Rupee	70.06	Singapore Dollar	1.36
Canadian Dollar	1.34	Japanese Yen	111.69	South Korean Won	1128.7
Chinese Yuan	6.71	Malaysian Ringgit	4.08	Swiss Franc	1
Euro	0.8847	New Zealand Dollar	1.47	Taiwan Dollar	30.87
		Philippine Peso	52.14	Thailand Baht	31.87

Nation

Judge: Census citizenship question is a threat to democracy

SAN FRANCISCO (AP)—The Trump administration's decision to add a citizenship question to the 2020 census "threatens the very foundation of our democratic system" because it would cause a significant undercount of immigrants and Latinos that could distort the distribution of congressional seats, a U.S. judge said Wednesday.

Judge Richard Seeborg in San Francisco said the commerce secretary's decision to add the question was arbitrary and capricious and would violate a constitutional requirement that the census accurately count the U.S. population.

"The record in this case has clearly established that including the citizenship question on the 2020 census is fundamentally counterproductive to the goal of obtaining accurate citizenship data about the public," Seeborg said.

He became the second judge to declare the move illegal, so the effect of his decision is limited. A federal judge in New York had previously blocked the administration from adding the question to the population count that occurs every 10 years, and the U.S. Supreme Court last month agreed to review that decision.

The ruling in California, however, differed from the January decision by U.S. District Judge Jesse Furman in a significant way. Furman also found the question violated administrative requirements, but he rejected an argument that it violated the Constitution.

Seeborg found a violation of the Constitution's Enumeration Clause, which could present another issue for the U.S. Supreme Court to consider.

The U.S. Department of Justice declined to comment.

The ruling came as The Associated Press reported that the Census Bureau is quietly seeking comprehensive information about the legal status of millions of immigrants.

Under a proposed plan, the Department of Homeland Security would provide the Census Bureau with a broad swath of personal data about noncitizens, including their immigration status, raising concerns among privacy and civil rights activists.

Seeborg ruled in lawsuits by California and several cities in the state that asserted the citizenship question was politically motivated and should be kept off the census.

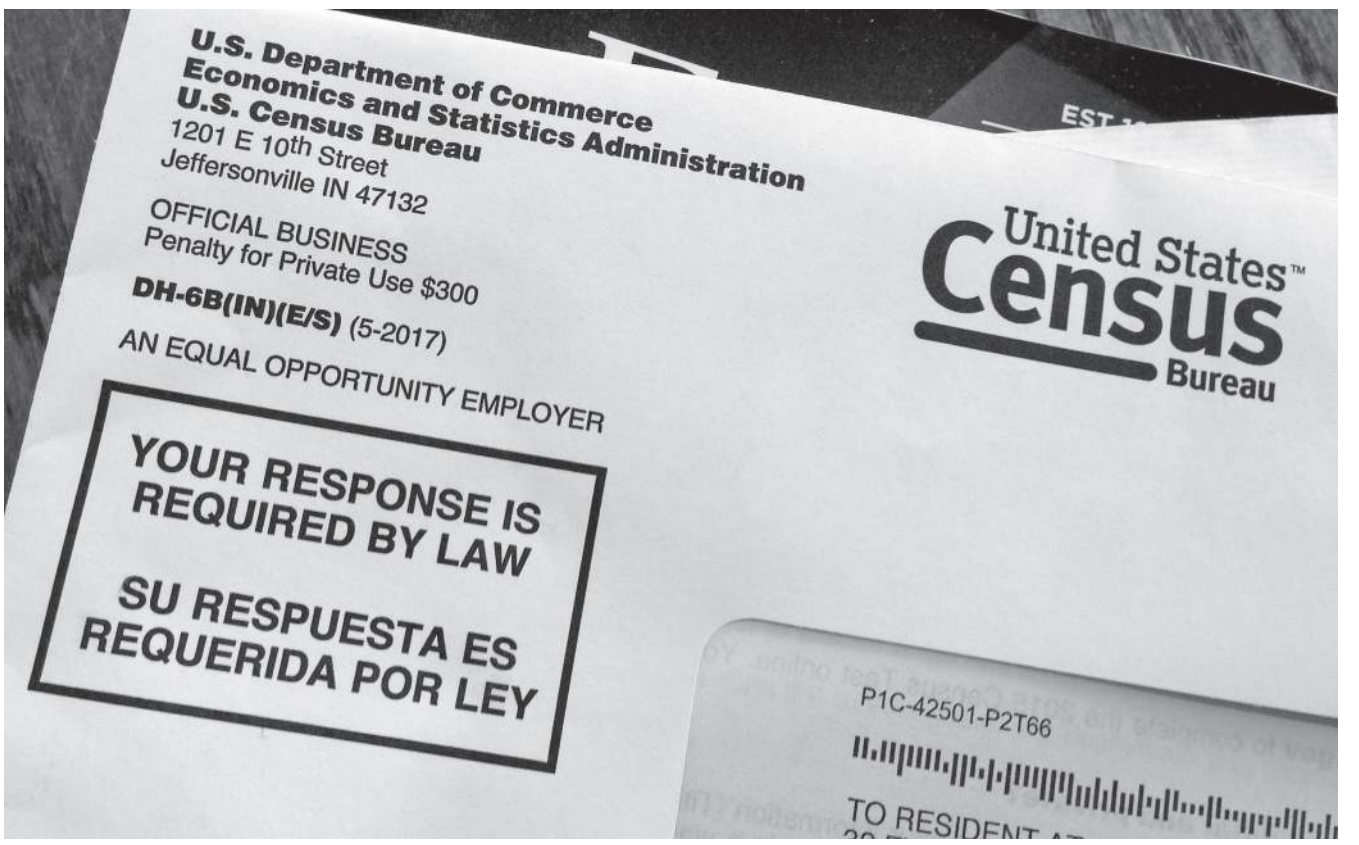
"Justice has prevailed for each and every Californian who should raise their hands to be counted in the 2020 census without being discouraged by a citizenship question," state Attorney General Xavier Becerra said in a statement.

California argued that the question would cost it a substantial amount of money and at least one congressional seat by reducing the percentage of Latinos and immigrants who respond to the survey. It said that would lead to an undercount in the state, which has a substantial number of people from both groups.

Census numbers are used to determine states' distribution of congressional seats and billions of dollars in federal funding.

The Justice Department had argued that census officials take steps such as making in-person follow-up visits to get an accurate count. Households that skip the citizenship question but otherwise fill out a substantial portion of the questionnaire would still be counted, Justice Department attorneys said in court documents.

The Commerce Department announced the addition of a citizenship question a year ago, saying the Justice Department asked for it and it would improve enforcement of a 1965 law meant to protect minority voting rights.



AP

This March 23, 2018 file photo shows an envelope containing a 2018 census letter mailed to a U.S. resident as part of the nation's only test run of the 2020 Census.

Gov sees Alabama tornado rubble as residents seek to recover

BEAUREGARD, Ala. (AP)—Alabama's governor walked a country road lined with shattered mobile homes Wednesday as the search for victims of a monstrous tornado ended and residents salvaged what they could from the rubble and planned funerals for the 23 dead.

"Y'all, it's horrendous, absolutely horrendous," Gov. Kay Ivey said after touring some of the worst devastation in an area of Lee County where "nothing's left standing, everything's in shreds."

Ivey signed a disaster assistance agreement with the Federal Emergency Management Agency and ordered state flags flown at half-staff until sunset Sunday.

As Ivey surveyed the damage, residents picked through mounds of splintered lumber, twisted metal and broken glass that had once been their homes.

Brooke Waldrop searched for the beloved motorcycle vest of her late stepfather, Marshall Grimes, who had belonged to a Christian motorcycle club.

"Words cannot express how much this man loved God and he loved his motorcycles," Waldrop said.

Grimes was among three people killed in the tornado-flattened home. Waldrop said her 11-year-old sister Kayla was the only person inside who lived.

Waldrop said someone found the vest and brought it to the funeral home Wednesday night. She hopes to put it in a shadow box and give it to her sister as a memento.

"For her to be the sole survivor of this one house is going to be hard for her," Waldrop said.

The huge EF4 tornado struck the rural community of Beauregard on Sunday afternoon, blasting an area nearly a mile wide with 170 mph (270 kph) winds.

The death toll stood at 23 as officials announced Wednesday that the search for victims had ended after two full days. Lee County Sheriff Jay Jones said the final seven people on officials' list of the missing had been accounted for and were alive.

"We are still in standby mode on the outside chance they find somebody else, which is not likely," County Coroner Bill Harris told a news conference.

The dead included four children and a couple in their 80s. Ten victims belonged to a single extended family . At least two funerals were scheduled for Thursday, with many more to follow soon after.

Kathy Pardrige wore a brace to keep her broken neck stabilized as she looked for anything salvageable in the ruins of her home. Pardrige, her family and their two dogs and pet rabbit all survived, but nearly everything they owned was destroyed.

They were at home when they heard the tornado alert on their phones, she said. A few minutes later, the house began to shake.

Police: Man who killed parents feared psychiatric commitment

NEWPORT BEACH, Calif. (AP)—Kim Nicholson's troubled son disappeared last year, but he sent his parents disturbing text messages and they learned he had placed a 911 call. Fearing he might have died, they hired a private investigator to track him down.

Nine days later, on Feb. 13, police found Nicholson, her husband and their housekeeper dead in the family's home in a gated community in Southern California's Newport Beach. One of the women's eyes appeared gouged.

Authorities had been summoned by the Nicholson's missing son, Camden, who had gone to a hospital, called police and confessed to the killings, according to documents obtained by The Associated Press. He said he killed his parents because he didn't want them to send him to a psychiatric hospital for evaluation, Newport Beach Detective Richard Henry wrote in an affidavit for a warrant to search the family's cars and home.

Camden Nicholson, 28, is to be arraigned Friday on three counts of murder for the deaths of his mother and father, Richard Nicholson, and their housekeeper, Maria Morse. His attorney, Jessica Ann Watts, did not return messages seeking comment.

The case shocked the affluent community where the Nicholsons lived and volunteered at a nearby Mormon temple. Some who knew the couple said they were unaware of their son's troubles.

Police documents and a lawsuit filed by Morse's husband and adult children describe Camden Nicholson as a disturbed man apparently fueled by drugs.

He went missing in December and his mother filed a missing person report advising that her son had Asperger's syndrome, depression and anger issues, Henry wrote. Police found Nicholson at a nearby hotel and determined there weren't grounds to place him on a psychiatric hold.

Camden Nicholson did not return home and in January his parents canceled a credit card after their son used it to leave a $1,000 tip. They also received disturbing text messages and on a cellphone call log saw that in early February he had dialed 911, said Michael Youssef, the investigator hired by the couple.

Youssef said Kim Nicholson told him her son had been healthy until he went on a Mormon mission to Florida in 2010. Prior to that he played golf at the University of Utah.

Kim Nicholson said her son had been using steroids and marijuana and the couple wanted to seek a conservatorship to get him treatment, Youssef said.

"What I understood is he's not physically dangerous—he could get mad and angry, but not to a physical point," Youssef said.

But the Nicholsons had been threatened by their son and Kim Nicholson left home for some time in 2018 fearing for her safety, said Edward Susolik, an attorney representing Morse's family in a wrongful death lawsuit.

Camden Nicholson had been injecting steroids at the family's home and told his mother he wanted to kill his father and made violent threats toward his mother, according to the lawsuit. But the family continued to have Morse, who worked for them for 12 years, clean their home on a weekly basis, the lawsuit said.

"Based on my understanding of the facts, the Nicholsons were in denial regarding their responsibility for their son's violent tendencies," he said.

When he was arrested, Nicholson had cuts on his fingers and was sweating. His speech was incoherent and he shook randomly at times, leading police to believe he may have taken narcotics, Henry wrote, adding that officers later found at least 200 loose pills in a bedroom at the family's home, with several crushed into powder.

Asia

Trump still hopes for North Korea deal after ominous report

WASHINGTON (AP)—Satellite photos showing new activity at a North Korean rocket launch site raised fresh doubts Wednesday that Kim Jong Un will ever give up his drive for nuclear weapons, yet talks continue and President Donald Trump said he was still hoping for the agreement that eluded the leaders at last week's summit.

The president said his relationship with the North Korean leader remains "good" even though Trump walked away from negotiations at their high-profile meeting in Vietnam. He said then that the North's concessions on its nuclear program weren't enough to warrant sanctions relief, and he said Wednesday he'd be unhappy if reports prove true that Kim is rebuilding a launch site after promising in Vietnam to extend his ban on nuclear and rocket tests.

"I would be very, very disappointed in Chairman Kim," Trump said when reporters asked him about reports of new work at the Sohae Satellite Launch Station, which is tucked into the hills northwest of Pyongyang. "I don't think I will be" disappointed, Trump said, "but we'll see what happens."

Past administrations discovered the perils of trying to do business with North Korea, which has a history of backing out of agreements. Trump believes his discussions will be different because Kim he has publicly announced his desire to focus on economic development in his reclusive nation, which is suffering under harsh U.S. and international sanctions.

Trump has favored direct talks with Kim, but with no third summit under discussion right now, the next stage of negotiations is likely to be conducted at lower levels. Trump's envoy to North Korea, Steve Biegun, had lunch Wednesday at the State Department with his counterparts from Japan and South Korea. The South Koreans have proposed semiofficial three-way talks with the United States and North Korea as it works to put nuclear diplomacy back on track.

Suh Hoon, the director of South Korea's National Intelligence Service, told his nation's lawmakers in Seoul that North Korea was restoring facilities at a rocket launch site it had dismantled last year in a goodwill measure.

Meanwhile, 38 North, a website specializing in North Korea studies, said commercial satellite imagery indicates the rebuilding started between Feb. 16 and March 2. And the Center for Strategic and International Studies, a think tank in Washington, issued another report saying satellite imagery taken Saturday—just two days after the summit ended—showed North Korea "pursuing a rapid rebuilding" of the rocket site.

Some analysts think the work is a signal that Kim is getting ready to conduct more tests, but others suggest he's just registering his disappointment that no agreement was reached at the summit. Trump himself added to the confusion, saying his administration had a hand in the report on Sohae being made public.

"It's a very early report. We're the ones that put it out," Trump said without elaborating.

Joel Wit, a North Korea proliferation expert who helped negotiate with North Korea in the mid-1990s, said the new work at Sohae is Kim's way of showing that he's "getting impatient with lack of progress in negotiations."

"We have to watch to see what else happens," Wit said. "It's a space launch facility and has been used to send satellites into space. ... Problem is, some of the technologies are the same."

He said there is no evidence that North Korea's work at the site signals Kim is preparing to test another intercontinental missile. He said North Korea has never tested an ICBM at Sohae. "Preparations for any launch would require a wide range of activities not observed at the site," Wit said.

AP

In this image made from video released on Wednesday, March 6, 2019, by North Korean broadcaster KRT, North Korean leader Kim Jong Un, right, smiles while walking with U.S. President Donald Trump for a meeting in Hanoi, Vietnam.

UN: 11M N. Koreans need food and kids are stunted

UNITED NATIONS (AP)—An estimated 11 million people in North Korea—over 43 percent of the population—are undernourished and "chronic food insecurity and malnutrition is widespread," according to a U.N. report issued Wednesday.

The report by Tapan Mishra, the head of the U.N. office in North Korea, said that "widespread undernutrition threatens an entire generation of children, with one in five children stunted due to chronic undernutrition."

With only limited health care and a lack of access to clean water and sanitation, "children are also at risk of dying from curable diseases," the report added.

Mishra said that last year's U.N. appeal for $111 million to help 6 million of North Korea's most vulnerable people was only 24 percent funded, one of the lowest levels in the world.

U.N. spokesman Stephane Dujarric told reporters Wednesday that the U.N. humanitarian team in the country is calling for $120 million "to urgently provide life-saving aid to 3.8 million people." Without adequate funding this year, some agencies providing desperately needed help to North Koreans will be forced to close down, he said.

Dujarric said North Korea's government asked last month for help from international humanitarian groups to combat food shortages. He said food production figures provided by North Korea showed "there is a food gap of about 1.4 million tons expected for 2019, and that's crops including rice, wheat, potato and soybeans."

Mishra's report said North Korea faces annual shortfalls in agricultural production because of a shortage of arable land, lack of access to modern agricultural equipment and fertilizers, and recurrent natural disasters. Last year, it said, there was a severe heat wave in provinces considered to be the country's "food basket," and the food situation was further aggravated by Typhoon Soulik in late August.

Many North Koreans don't eat an adequately diverse diet, which reinforces their poor nutrition, Mishra said.

Although the national rate of stunting has dropped significantly from 28 percent in 2012 to 19 percent in 2017, Mishra cited major regional differences varying from 10 percent in the capital area of Pyongyang Province to 32 percent in Ryanggang Province in the northwest bordering China.

He said an estimated 3 percent of children under age 5—approximately 140,000—"suffer from wasting or acute malnutrition" and "have a higher risk of mortality."

"The main underlying causes of wasting are poor household food security, inadequate feeding and care practices, as well as poor access to health, water, hygiene and sanitation services," Mishra said.

The report was issued days after a summit between North Korean leader Kim Jong Un and President Donald Trump ended without any agreement on the North's nuclear program.

India, Pakistan again target army posts, villages in Kashmir

SRINAGAR, India (AP)—Indian and Pakistani soldiers shelled military outposts and villages along their highly militarized frontier in disputed Kashmir on Wednesday, in an outbreak of new violence despite stepped-up diplomatic efforts by the rival countries to ease tensions.

The two armies accused each other of initiating the artillery and mortar fire and small-arms gunfire. No casualties were immediately reported.

Tensions have been high since Indian aircraft crossed into Pakistan last week, carrying out what India called a pre-emptive strike against militants blamed for a Feb. 14 suicide bombing in Indian-controlled Kashmir that killed 40 Indian troops.

Pakistan retaliated, shooting down two Indian planes and capturing a pilot, who was later returned to India in a peace gesture. The two countries have also resumed bus and train services that were stopped following the escalation of tensions, the most serious in the long-simmering conflict since 1999, when Pakistan's military sent a ground force into Indian-controlled Kashmir.

In another effort aimed at easing tension with India, Pakistan on Tuesday arrested dozens of people including the brother of the leader of the outlawed Jaish-e-Mohammad militant group, which claimed responsibility for the suicide bombing in Kashmir.

Among the detainees were Mufti Abdul Rauf and Hammad Azhar, two prominent members of the group who were on a list of suspects given by India to Pakistan over the weekend.

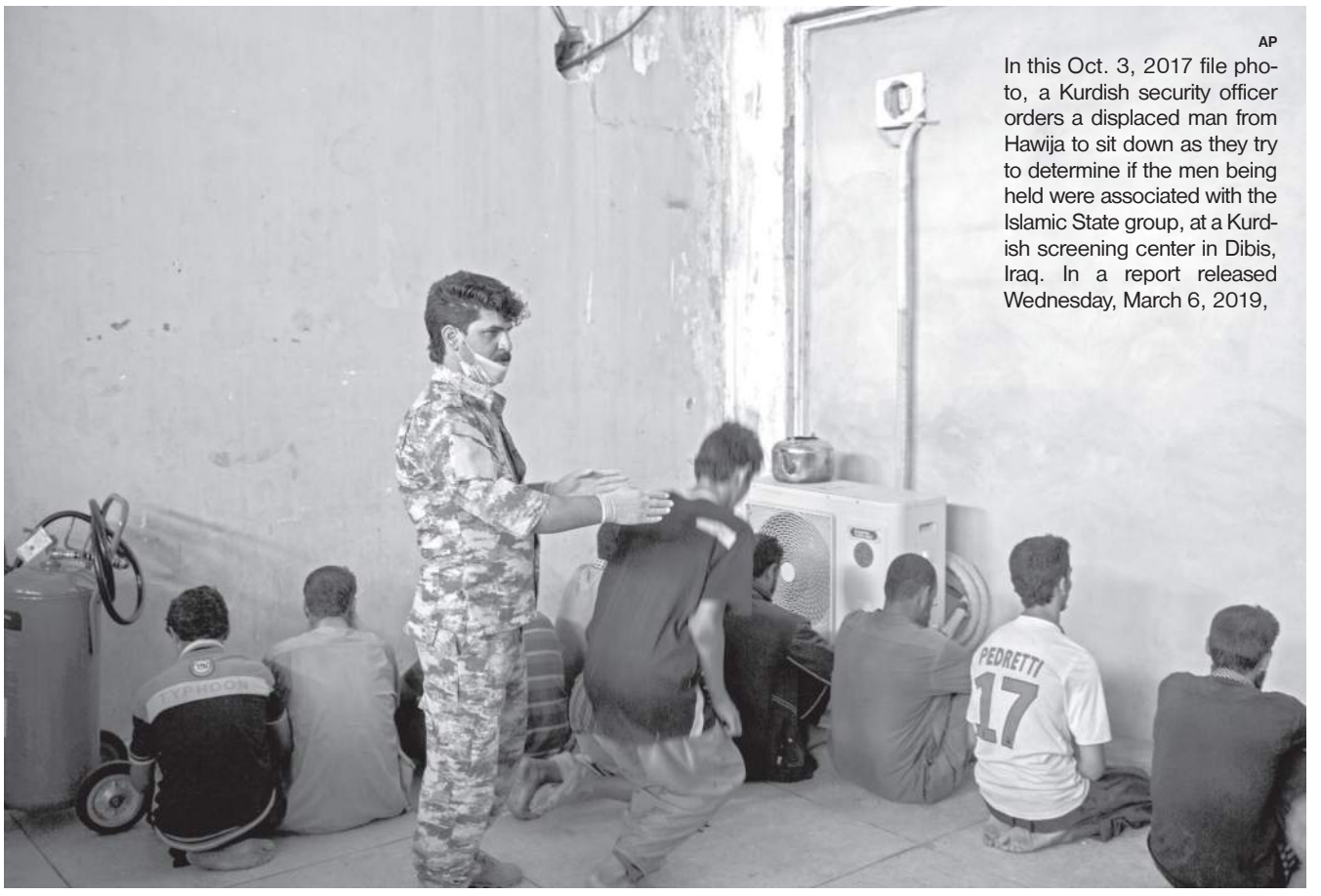
Pakistan on Wednesday continued a crackdown on seminaries, mosques and hospitals belonging to outlawed groups, saying the actions were part of its efforts to fight terrorism, extremism and militancy. In Islamabad, authorities also took control of a mosque and dispensary run by Jamaat-ud-Dawa, a charity run by an anti-India cleric, Hafiz Saeed, that is widely believed to serve as a front for Lashkar-e-Taiba, the militant group blamed for attacks in Mumbai in 2008 that killed 166 people.

In Pakistan, foreign minister Shah Mahmood Qureshi said its ambassador to India was returning to New Delhi and a Pakistani delegation will also travel to India on March 14 for talks on opening the first visa-free border crossing between the nations, a corridor that will allow Sikh pilgrims to easily visit their shrines on each side of the border.

India's foreign ministry also confirmed the talks.

World

Group: Iraq is torturing children to coerce confessions



AP

In this Oct. 3, 2017 file photo, a Kurdish security officer orders a displaced man from Hawija to sit down as they try to determine if the men being held were associated with the Islamic State group, at a Kurdish screening center in Dibis, Iraq. In a report released Wednesday, March 6, 2019,

BEIRUT (AP)—Iraq and the Kurdish regional government have charged hundreds of children with terrorism for alleged affiliation with the Islamic State group, often using torture to coerce confessions, Human Rights Watch said Wednesday.

In a report, the New York-based group estimated that Iraqi and Kurdish authorities were holding approximately 1,500 children for alleged IS affiliation in detention at the end of 2018. It said the prosecutions are often based on dubious accusations and forced confessions obtained through torture.

The children are then sentenced to prison in hasty and unfair trials, HRW said.

"The approach that Iraq has adopted is one that completely fails to acknowledge what is commonly understood and reflected in international law, which is that children who were forcibly recruited are indeed victims, they should be treated as victims not as criminals," said Belkis Wille, senior Iraq researcher at Human Rights Watch.

Iraq declared victory against IS in December 2017 after three years of bloody battles that killed tens of thousands and left Iraqi cities in ruins. The country is grappling with a massive legacy from the fight, which includes thousands of detainees, including children, who are being sentenced in rushed trials

The Associated Press interviewed two parents in northern Syria, near Iraq's second largest city of Mosul, whose children, aged 16 and 17, had been taken away from them by Iraqi security services in 2017. In both cases it took the parents months to locate their children and both boys said that they had been tortured during their detention.

One of the women said after her husband and son were arrested she didn't see them for a year and a half. Then she received a phone call from a hospital telling her that her son was there being treated.

"My son told me: 'mum, they took me to a room.' And I said, 'why? What did they do to you, my son?' He said 'mum, they took me inside and started beating me with hoses. I reached behind but couldn't tell where the next blow was coming from, they were beating my head, my back, both of my feet,'" said the woman, who wished to remain identified for security concerns.

"Children accused of affiliation with IS are being detained, and often tortured and prosecuted, regardless of their actual level of involvement with the group," said Jo Becker, children's rights advocacy director for HRW. "This sweeping punitive approach is not justice, and will create lifelong negative consequences for many of these children."

Maj. Gen. Saad Maan, a spokesman for Iraq's Ministry of Interior, denied the HRW accusations, saying authorities in Baghdad are holding around 500 IS women, and some of those have their children with them. He said the children are not being investigated and are being provided with medicine, food and clothes. "None of the children are under investigation," he told AP in Baghdad.

The 52-page report, entitled "Everyone Must Confess': Abuses against Children Suspected of ISIS Affiliation in Iraq," criticized what it described as a deeply flawed screening process that often leads to detention and prosecution of children regardless of whether they have any involvement with IS, or the extent of that involvement.

It cites the case of a 17-year-old detainee, who said he worked at a restaurant in Mosul that served IS members, and believed that his name appeared on a "wanted" list because IS took his identification so he could be paid.

"What we see are extremely brief trials in the cases of these boys. Every single one of these trials proceeded solely on the basis of the confession that was produced by their interrogation, often with the use of torture," Wille told the AP from New York.

"After the trial is done, usually in ... five-minute or a 10-minute period, they receive their sentence and they return to prison."

WORLD BRIEFS

Ministry: Israeli fire kills Gaza teen at border skirmishes

GAZA CITY, Gaza Strip (AP)—Gaza's Health Ministry says a 15-year-old Palestinian has died from Israeli gunfire during nighttime skirmishes along Gaza-Israel frontier. Saif Abu Zaied was wounded in the head Wednesday and died at a hospital, the ministry said early Thursday. The circumstances were not immediately known, but the incident occurred as dozens of youths engaged in "nighttime confusion," a more violent form of protests involving firebombs and laser lights directed at Israeli forces along the border fence. The night skirmishes are complementary to the weekly daytime protests that Gaza's Hamas rulers have staged for a year. The Islamic militant group wants an end to a crippling Israeli-Egyptian blockade on the Palestinian enclave. On Wednesday, the Israeli military said a projectile was fired from Gaza and activated warning sirens in southern Israel.

UK jury convicts man in acid attack on 3-year-old son

LONDON (AP)—A jury in central England on Wednesday convicted a father of enlisting men to attack his 3-year-old son with a corrosive acid amid a custody battle with the child's mother. The jury found the 40-year-old man and five others guilty of conspiracy with intent to "burn, maim or disfigure." The boy suffered serious injuries on his face and arm when sulfuric acid was thrown on him inside a store in July. Prosecutors alleged the father wanted more contact with his son and organized the plot to manufacture evidence the child's mother was unfit to care for him. The father was sentenced to 16 years in prison. The five co-defendants received prison terms of 12 to 14 years. A seventh defendant was acquitted. Judge Robert Juckes told the men they committed a "monstrous" crime that had been carefully planned and executed.

Woman records avalanche crashing toward central Norway home

COPENHAGEN, Denmark (AP)—A Norwegian woman showed she had quick wits and a cool head by recording a video of a "dramatic" avalanche as it cascaded toward her house. Gunn Gravem Isaksen, a 48-year-old shop manager from the central Norway town of Furugrenda, says she was at home when the avalanche was triggered on Tuesday. On realizing what was going on, she rushed to her porch and started recording. Gravem Isaksen says her home video certainly "looks dramatic," but what matters most is no one was injured. The town where she lives lies at the foot of Kufonna mountain in a region widely known for early spring avalanches. "We're used to avalanches here, but this one was huge," Gravem Isaksen said Wednesday. "And no one was in danger at any moment; we (in the town) were not threatened."

Angry and defiant, IS families surrender in Syria

BAGHOUZ, Syria (AP)—Angry crowds evacuating from the last shred of territory held by Islamic State militants in Syria praised the extremist group Wednesday and chanted "Islamic State will remain," in a menacing show of support, even as defeat loomed.

There were no signs of combat as calm prevailed for a third day to allow for evacuations from the eastern Syrian village of Baghouz. Associated Press journalists positioned across from the IS's riverside pocket of land saw lines of pickup trucks, motorcycles and people walking on foot, apparently a group of evacuees.

The U.S.-backed Syrian Democratic Forces, which is spearheading the fight against IS in Syria, has been surprised by the large number of civilians—family members of IS fighters in the thousands—who have been streaming out of the tiny enclave. In recent weeks, the Kurdish-led SDF has been alternately applying military force to put pressure on militants who refuse to surrender and holding fire long enough to allow for evacuations and surrender.

Thousands of people have trickled out of Baghouz in the last few days. The latest wave of evacuations brings the IS a step closer to defeat by the Kurdish-led SDF. That would be a milestone in the devastating four-year campaign to defeat the group's so-called "caliphate" that once covered a vast territory straddling both Syria and Iraq. The fight against IS has taken place amid Syria's nearly 8-year-old civil war.

On Wednesday, hundreds of evacuees walked through the dusty desert plateau to get on trucks to carry them to displaced persons camps miles away. Meanwhile, lines of men walked guided by their enemy, the SDF, to another corner of the plateau to be screened and searched by members of the U.S-led coalition.

As defeat neared, the anger of defiant supporters among the evacuees was palpable.

Women seen at a reception area set up in the desert, where they were screened by SDF officials, were rowdy and aggressive. They angrily denounced journalists, and praised IS. Engulfed in conservative black robes with a black face covers, they pointed their fingers at the sky and screamed: "Islamic State will stay, God is great, God is great, Islamic State will stay!" Two women took off their shoes and raised them in the direction of journalists. "Take a picture of the shoe, the shoes are better than you," one said. Children joined, raising their fingers in the air.

A man who refused to give his name screamed at journalists filming the evacuees praying, and decried their being depicted as terrorists. "We only implemented God's laws," he shouted, covering half his face.

Abu Sham, a member of the IS religious police who exited Baghouz on Tuesday, said fighters who remained inside are willing to die for the group.

"The Islamic State is not finished," the 39-year old said, using a moniker that means the father of Syria. "I didn't lose hope."

Science & Technology

Zuckerberg promises a privacy-friendly Facebook, sort of

SAN FRANCISCO (AP)—Facebook, which grew into a colossus by vacuuming up your information in every possible way and using it to target ads back at you, now says its future lies in privacy-oriented messaging that Facebook itself can't read.

Mark Zuckerberg, co-founder and CEO, announced the shift in a Wednesday blog post apparently intended to blunt both criticism of the company's data handling and potential antitrust action. Going forward, he said, Facebook will emphasize giving people ways to communicate in truly private fashion, with their intimate thoughts and pictures shielded by encryption in ways that Facebook itself can't read.

But Zuckerberg didn't suggest any changes to Facebook's core newsfeed-and-groups-based service, or to Instagram's social network, currently the fastest growing part of the company. Facebook pulls in gargantuan profits by selling ads targeted using the information it amasses on its users and others they know.

"All indications are that Facebook and Instagram will continue growing and be increasingly important," Zuckerberg said in an interview Wednesday with The Associated Press.

Critics aren't convinced Zuckerberg is committed to meaningful change.

"This does nothing to address the ad targeting and information collection about individuals," said Jen King, director of consumer privacy at Stanford Law School's Center for Internet and Society. "It's great for your relationship with other people. It doesn't do anything for your relationship with Facebook itself."

Facebook's new orientation follows a rocky two-year battering over revelations about its leaky privacy controls. That included the sharing of personal information from as many as 87 million users with a political data-mining firm that worked for the 2016 Trump campaign.

iPhone sales are falling, and Apple's app fees might be next

SAN FRANCISCO (AP)—Last year, every time someone paid $11 for Netflix through an iPhone app, Apple pocketed as much as $3.30. Multiply that by every charge made through iPhone apps and you can see why Netflix and other companies are fed up about what they consider Apple's unfair market power.

Late last year, Netflix rebelled against Apple's fees, which can range from 15 percent to 30 percent. Analysts fear other companies may follow. And attorneys representing consumers in a pending Supreme Court case charge that Apple is an unfair monopolist in the market for iPhone apps. An adverse decision in that case could open a legal door that might eventually force Apple to cut its generous commissions.

That could spell more bad news for Apple, which is already reeling from a slump in iPhone sales that has knocked down its shares by 25 percent. The company has been positioning its booming digital-services business as its new profit engine. That plan could hit a snag if the app store takes a hit, since it currently generates about a third of the company's services revenue.

Investors are now hanging onto Apple services as a "life preserver in the choppy seas" just as it's about to float away, Macquarie Securities analyst Benjamin Schachter concluded after the Netflix move.

These app-store fees mostly hit app developers themselves, although some pass along the costs to users of their iPhone apps. Spotify, for instance, used to tack $3 onto the cost of its $10-a-month paid service—but only for users who signed up via its iPhone or iPad app.

Apple has doubled down on digital services as consumers cling to older iPhone models, hurting sales. Apple's iPhone revenue this year is expected to drop by 15 percent from last year $141 billion, according to analysts surveyed by FactSet.

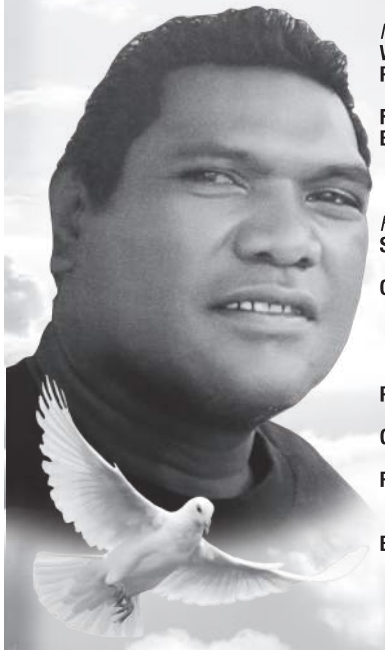
Services, by contrast, are expected to generate about $46 billion in revenue this year, according to the same survey.

IN LOVING MEMORY OF

†David Ngirarois Camacho

Lovingly known as "Dabit Palau"

Born to life on July 18, 1971, called to Eternal life on March 01, 2019



In his new Life, he will be met at the gates of Heaven by his:

Wife: †Lydia Omengkar
Parents: †Felipe "Chandi" SN. Camacho / †Tomiko "Susie" Ngirarois
Father-in-law: †Paul Ilengelang Omengkar
Brothers & Sisters: †Shirley Ngirarois, †Jeffrey Ngirarois, †Freddy N. Camacho, †Quentin M. Ngirarois

His loving memories will forever live in the hearts of his:

Spouse: Adrianne May DLG Flores "Kumoi"

Children:
Nieves B./Marvin Tebit, Klyde Camacho, Brittney C./Sonnie Ngirarois, Devannie Nicole C./Mathew Eugario, Brandy Eessha C., Dwayne Jose C., Freddy Quentin C., Brinishia Naedeen C.

Parents in Law: Annie & Frank T. Flores (Sonny)

Grand Children: V'Nisha "Bin" B. Sablan, Kayden Caleb C. Camacho, Kyrie Xavier C. Eugario

Reared Children: Jenny Ngirarois Blas, Hilarry Ngirarois, Kody Adrian M. Omengkar

Brothers/Sisters/Spouses:
Margaret P. Camacho & Children, Rita P. Camacho & Children, Joan Merlane Ngirarois/Jimbo Matuto & Children, Felipe "Boboy" N. Camacho/Tasha Sorensen & Children, Sandra N. Camacho/Akiwo Recheungel & Children

Numerous nephews, nieces, godchildren, cousins, aunts, uncles, friends will miss him dearly.

Daily mass is offered at San Roque Church
Monday to Friday - 6:00pm
Saturday – 6:00am
Sunday – 7:00am and 9:00am

Rosary is being said nightly at 7:00 p.m. at the Camacho's Residence in San Roque

On Monday, March 11, 2019 his remains will be escorted from the CHCC Chapel to San Roque Parish for responso, rosary and viewing. Mass of Christian Burial will be celebrated at 10:00 a.m. followed by interment services at San Roque Cemetery

Your thoughts, prayers, words of comfort and presence are sincerely appreciated.

Thank You,
Children and Families

Why you aren't told your email is blocked

TECH Q&A

By STEVE ALEXANDER
Star Tribune (Minneapolis)

Steve Alexander covers technology for the Minneapolis Star Tribune. *Readers may write to him at Tech Q&A, 425 Portland Ave. S., Minneapolis, Minn. 55488-0002; email: steve.j.alexander@gmail.com. Please include a full name, city and phone number.*

Q: I learned that email providers sometimes block mail sent from other providers over the issue of misuse. But when my provider was blocked, I wasn't told. I only learned later that some of my outgoing mail wasn't delivered. Shouldn't email users be notified if they're being blocked?

A: The deliberate blocking of email traffic is an anti-spam (junk mail) defense. While it inconveniences some email users, it's also fleeting, so users are unlikely to be notified.

Why does it happen at all? When email provider A receives an excessive amount of spam from provider B, A blocks incoming mail from B. This isn't punishment so much as a wake-up call to provider B to get rid of the spammers using its email network. Once B takes action against the spammers, A lifts its blockade, usually in a couple of days. Among email providers, this is considered to be responsible spam-prevention, so it's likely to continue.

Fewer consumers are affected than you would think. Why? Because email provider A doesn't usually block all mail coming from provider B, just the mail coming from a few of B's mail servers—the ones used by the spammers. So only some of provider B's customers are blocked.

But if you feel your email provider is being blocked too frequently—signifying a poor job of policing for spammers—change providers.

Q: My Microsoft Word documents have all been mysteriously changed to something called "Office Open XML Documents." Now Word can open but not edit them. What's wrong?

A: You are the victim of a mass-file conversion, but you can undo it.

Your files have been converted from the pre-Office 2007 Word file format (.doc) to the newer file format (.docx). The latter format is also called "Open XML."

If you are using a pre-Office 2007 version of Word, it can't open .docx files without some help.

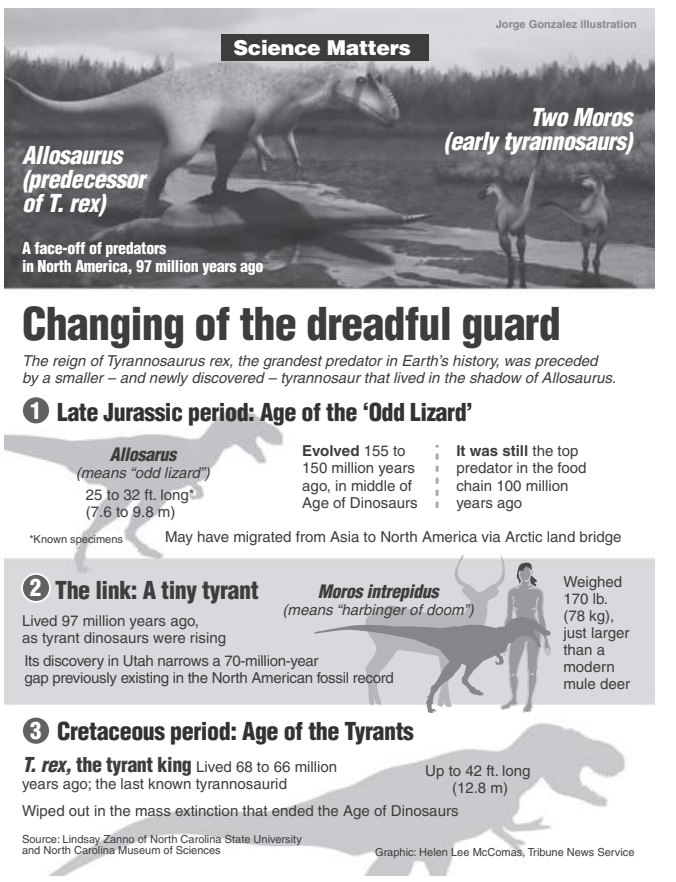
At the time Office 2007 was introduced, Microsoft provided that help in the form of a downloadable (but now discontinued) program called Office Compatibility Pack. It enabled pre-2007 copies of Word to at least open .docx files. Because you can open .docx files, I suspect that you're using Compatibility Pack right now.

However, another feature of Compatibility Pack enabled it, in conjunction with Microsoft's Office File Converter, to turn all .doc files to .docx files. That may have happened to you.

To convert your .docx files back to .doc files for free (but one at a time), use online services Convertio (see tinyurl.com/y4yllkty) or Onlineconvertfree (see tinyurl.com/y3u9xy8e). Convertio also offers bulk file conversion for a fee.

Q: I'm getting unwanted robocalls, and I don't know how to block them with my CenturyLink landline phone. Is there anything I can do?

A: CenturyLink offers a "call rejection" service that blocks up to 25 phone numbers on a landline phone (see tinyurl.com/y5gynw6e). Each time you get a robocall, add that number to your blocked list. You will probably be rid of the robocalls long before you get to 25 numbers.


Jorge Gonzalez illustration
Science Matters
Allosaurus (predecessor of T. rex)
Two Moros (early tyrannosaurs)
A face-off of predators in North America, 97 million years ago
Changing of the dreadful guard
The reign of Tyrannosaurus rex, the grandest predator in Earth's history, was preceded by a smaller – and newly discovered – tyrannosaur that lived in the shadow of Allosaurus.
1 Late Jurassic period: Age of the 'Odd Lizard'
Allosarus (means "odd lizard")
25 to 32 ft. long*
(7.6 to 9.8 m)
Evolved 155 to 150 million years ago, in middle of Age of Dinosaurs
It was still the top predator in the food chain 100 million years ago
*Known specimens
May have migrated from Asia to North America via Arctic land bridge
2 The link: A tiny tyrant
Moros intrepidus (means "harbinger of doom")
Lived 97 million years ago, as tyrant dinosaurs were rising
Its discovery in Utah narrows a 70-million-year gap previously existing in the North American fossil record
Weighed 170 lb. (78 kg), just larger than a modern mule deer
3 Cretaceous period: Age of the Tyrants
T. rex, the tyrant king Lived 68 to 66 million years ago; the last known tyrannosaurid
Up to 42 ft. long (12.8 m)
Wiped out in the mass extinction that ended the Age of Dinosaurs
Source: Lindsay Zanno of North Carolina State University and North Carolina Museum of Sciences
Graphic: Helen Lee McComas, Tribune News Service

Off the Wall

Over 1,500 turtles found inside luggage in Philippines

MANILA, Philippines (AP) —Philippine authorities said Monday that they found more than 1,500 live turtles stuffed inside luggage at Manila's airport.

The various types of turtles were found Sunday inside four pieces of left-behind luggage of a Filipino passenger arriving at Ninoy Aquino International Airport on a Philippine Airlines flight from Hong Kong, Customs officials said in a statement.

The 1,529 turtles were turned over to the Department of Environment and Natural Resources' Wildlife Traffic Monitoring Unit, the statement said.

In this March 3, 2019, handout photo provided by the Bureau of Customs Public Information Office, duct taped turtles are presented to reporters in Manila, Philippines. AP

Convictions for the illegal trading of wildlife are punishable by a prison sentence of up to two years and a fine of up to 200,000 pesos ($3,861).

In 2018, Philippine authorities turned over to the DENR a total of 560 wildlife and endangered species, including 250 geckos and 254 corals smuggled through air parcels, baggage and shipments, according to the statement.

Rare sea creature washes ashore

SANTA BARBARA, Calif. (AP)—A 7-foot (215-centimeter) sea creature that washed ashore in Southern California has been identified as a hoodwinker sunfish, a recently identified rare species thought to live in the Southern Hemisphere.

The University of California, Santa Barbara, said an intern spotted the stranded fish last week at Sands Beach in the university's Coal Oil Point Natural Reserve.

The intern alerted Jessica Nielsen, a conservation specialist at Coal Oil Point who initially thought it was a type of local sunfish and posted photos to the reserve's Facebook page.

That drew the attention of Thomas Turner, an associate professor in UCSB's ecology, evolution and marine biology department who examined the fish and posted photos to the iNaturalist online community.

That caught the eye of Marianne Nyegaard of Murdoch University in Australia, who identified the species in 2017 and formally named it Mola tecta but gave it the hoodwinker moniker because it had somehow escaped scientific recognition.

Nyegaard told UCSB in an email that she discussed the images with ichthyologist Ralph Foster of the South Australian Museum but was reluctant to identify the fish as a hoodwinker because the photos didn't clearly show distinctive features and because it had turned up so far out of its known range.

Nyegaard sent specific instructions to California about what to photograph and tissue samples that should be taken.

Turner and Nielsen were glad to help, but first they had to find the fish, which had been moved by the tide, according to UCSB.

In this Feb. 21, 2019 photo, provided by UC Santa Barbara, Jessica Nielsen, a conservation specialist, examines a beached hoodwinker sunfish at at Coal Oil Point Reserve in Santa Barbara, Calif. AP

They walked from opposite ends of the beach and found it several hundred yards from its original position.

Nyegaard said she ended up with a large number of extremely clear photos "and there was just no doubt of the ID."

Sunfish are odd-looking, flat and somewhat oval with fins that resemble little wings.

According to Thomas, the fish was just over 7 feet (215 centimeters) long and slightly wider (227 centimeters) from fin tip to fin tip. Its dorsal fin was just under 2½ feet (75 centimeters) long. He did not measure the weight.

Animal saved from icy river turns out to be a wolf

HELSINKI (AP)—Estonian construction workers got the shock of their lives when they found out the animal they saved from an icy river was not a dog but a wolf.

Rando Kartsepp, Robin Sillamae and Erki Vali told the Postimees newspaper they were working at the Sindi dam on the frozen Parnu River in southwestern Estonia when they saw an animal frantically swimming in a maze of ice.

They rescued the ice-coated animal and took it to a shelter. A hunter told them it was about a one-year old male wolf suffering from shock and hypothermia.

The young wolf recovered after a day and was released back into the wild with a GPS collar.

Estonia has an estimated 200 wolves. The grey wolf was voted Estonia's national animal by nature organizations in 2018.

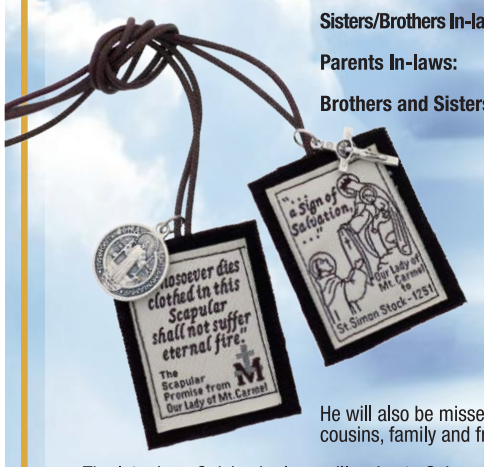
DEATH AND FUNERAL ANNOUNCEMENT

Juan Quichocho Inos

Also known as "Kuch"
December 27, 1956 – February 14, 2019

He now joins his:
Parents: †Emilio Atalig and †Agustina Quichocho Inos
Wife: †Magdalena M. Inos
Parents In-law: †Ana Borja Roberto
†Tomas Castro
†Romano M. and †Asuncion H. Maratita
Brothers: †Gregorio Quichocho Inos
†Patricio Quichocho Inos
Nieces/Nephews: †Ruth Margaret Inos Pangelinan
†Emery Joseph Inos Pangelinan
†Agustina Charfauros Manglona
Brother and Sister In-Law:
†Thomas M. Manglona
†Pedro DLC. Pangelinan
†Jose B. Babauta
†Raymundo and Guadalup Manglona
†Beato Manglona
†Angelica M. and Miseal H. Ogo
†Clara M. Valdez
†Richard H. Maratita
†Candido H. Maratita
†Leon Masga

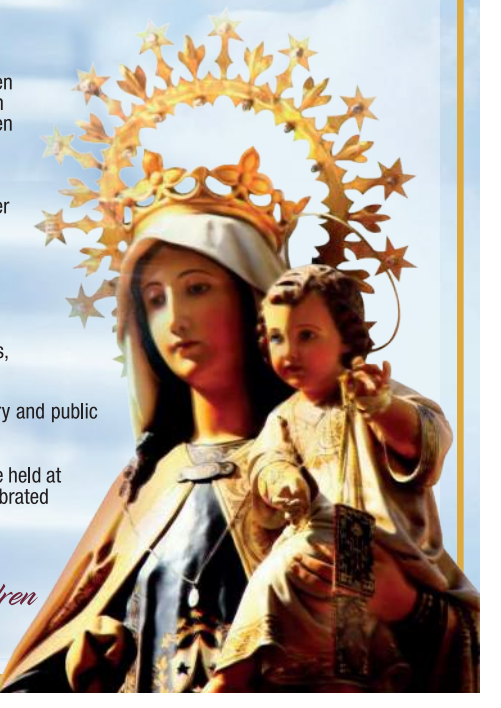
He will forever live in the hearts of his:
Wife: Rosalia Julita Roberto Inos
Children: Juan Q. Inos II
Christine Annette and Rodney Mendiola
(Maggie Ann and Zachary, Alfra Mae, Victorino III, Sierra)
Lelanie Inos and Jarrod T. Manglona
(Fidel Anton, Oryn Jordan)
Candilyn N. Inos
Rochelle Ann Roberto (Haani Rae)
Juan Q. Inos III, and Angela Mendiola
(Edward Jr., Angelina)
Reared Children: Thomas M. Manglona, Jr.
Nobert Jake I. Pangelinan
Francis Dwayne I. Manglona
Ray Ervin I. Manglona
God Children: Clarence Manglona
Glenda C. Santos
Frank S. Calvo II
Joel O. Hocog
Ashley O. Hocog
Sisters/Brothers In-law: Laura Maria Inos/ †Thomas M. Manglona, Children & Grandchildren
Judith Inos/ †Pedro DLC. Pangelinan, Children & Grandchildren
Parents In-laws: Felipe and Ketsuda Roberto
Brothers and Sisters In-law:
Engracia R. Babauta & Children
Juan B. Roberto and Flora T. Castro & Children
Marcelino B. and Julita B. Roberto & Children
Jose B. and Maria Linda S. Roberto & Children
Dolores R. and James McAllister & Children
Francisco B. and Kuuipo Roberto & Children
Pedro B. and Perdita Roberto & Children
Mamoltiwa (Moi) R. and Suriwong & Daughter
Preeyanuch (Mikki) Kongphim Roberto
Bonabe H. and Imee Maratita & Children
Carmen M. and Akilino Suzuki & Children
Delfina M. and Edward Barcinas & Children
Carmen C. Maratita & Children


a Sign of Salvation
Whosoever dies clothed in this Scapular shall not suffer eternal fire.
The Scapular Promise from Our Lady of Mt. Carmel
Our Lady of Mt. Carmel to St. Simon Stock - 1251

He will also be missed by numerous aunts & uncles, nephews, nieces, cousins, family and friends.

The late Juan Quichocho Inos will arrive to Saipan on March 8, 2019 at 8:10 a.m. Responso, rosary and public viewing will be on March 9, 2019 at 9:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m. at the Borja Funeral Homes.

†Juan Quichocho Inos will be transported to Rota on Monday, March 11, 2019. Public viewing will be held at the San Francisco De Borja Church from 7:00 a.m. to 10:00 a.m. Mass of Christian Burial will be celebrated at 11:00 a.m. followed by Interment service at the San Jose Cemetery, Rota.



Thank you, Si Yu'us Maase,
Rosalia Julita, children, grandchildren and family

Life & Style

Netflix to make 'One Hundred Years of Solitude' series

NEW YORK (AP)—Netflix has acquired the rights to Gabriel Garcia Marquez's "One Hundred Years of Solitude," one of the most celebrated novels of the 20th century.

The streaming company announced Wednesday that it will adapt the 1967 book into a Spanish language series. "One Hundred Years of Solitude," which has sold an estimated 47 million copies and been translated into 46 languages, has never before been adapted for the screen.

The series will be shot largely in Colombia, Netflix said. Garcia Marquez's sons, Rodrigo Garcia and Gonzalo Garcia Barcha, will serve as executive producers.

While other Garcia Marquez novels have been turned into films such as "Love in the Time of Cholera" and "Chronicles of a Death Foretold," the Nobel Prize-winning Colombian novelist doubted how the expansive and mythical "One Hundred Years of Solitude" could be adapted. Garcia Marquez died in 2014.

"For decades our father was reluctant to sell the film rights to 'One Hundred Years of Solitude' because he believed that it could not be made under the time constraints of a feature film, or that producing it in a language other than Spanish would not do it justice," Garcia said. "But in the current golden age of series, with the level of talented writing and directing, the cinematic quality of content, and the acceptance by worldwide audiences of programs in foreign languages, the time could not be better to bring an adaptation to the extraordinary global viewership that Netflix provides."

The Oscar-winning "Roma" and the Pablo Escobar series "Narcos" are among the Spanish-language originals that have been successes for Netflix.

"One Hundred Years of Solitude" is about multiple generations of the Buendia family told across a century. It's considered one of the greatest works of magical realism, a genre Garcia Marquez popularized in which the fantastical and the real were wedded as one.

Granny Jela draws millions in Serbia with online cooking

AP
Jelena Petrovic places the tray with food into the oven in her home in Jagodina, Serbia, Tuesday, Feb. 12, 2019.

By JOVANA GEC
ASSOCIATED PRESS

JAGODINA, Serbia (AP)—What to cook today?

Serbs looking for ideas are increasingly turning to the Balkan country's 69-year-old hit chef Granny Jela, who has put her life-long experience to good use and launched an online cooking tutorial.

Her real name is Jelena Petrovic and her YouTube channel and blog dubbed Bakina Kuhinja ("Granny's Kitchen") have had more than 50 million of views and nearly 150,000 subscribers who check in daily for a new recipe of home-made food.

Self-styled and aided by her husband Milan, who is behind the camera and does grocery shopping, Granny Jela has become a local celebrity and an internet sensation, winning an award last year.

"All you need is love, the will and desire to do something," Petrovic told The Associated Press in an interview. "Anything can be done only if you really want to do it."

It all started about a decade ago when Petrovic launched an online forum to share her recipes of home-made dishes—from soups to cooked meals, meat, sweets, home-made bread or pastry.

Slowly at first, the list of followers grew and Petrovic started a blog and began posting videos, made initially with her cellphone and as of recently with a more sophisticated camera.

Along the way, Petrovic conquered online skills.

"I didn't even know how to use a computer mouse at first," she said. "But I Googled a lot and read hundreds of tutorials."

Nowadays, Petrovic's channel is a full-time preoccupation. After a morning tea, the couple gets down to work from grocery shopping to filming, editing and posting, she explained.

"It is exhausting, from early morning to late evening," Petrovic said, explaining mistakes are possible "like in any movie."

But, she added, "my viewers wait for a new recipe every morning. If I am late, they ask if I am well and what is happening."

Petrovic said she prepares her dishes in her own kitchen, from local food that can be found in shops and markets in Serbia and in the way generations have done before her.

Often, viewers write that the recipes bring back warm memories of childhood.

"My recipes are all local, traditional home-food recipes," Petrovic explained. "I make things my mother or grandmother used to make."

Who eats all the food?

"Oh, I give some of it to the neighbors and friends, but I pack the sweets for my grandchildren," Petrovic says with a smile.

Arata Isozaki wins Pritzker for designs blending East, West

Isozaki

TOKYO (AP)—Japanese architect Arata Isozaki, credited with bringing together the East and West in his innovative designs, has been awarded this year's Pritzker Architecture Prize, known internationally as the highest honor in the field.

The 2019 prize was announced Tuesday by the jury of the Hyatt Foundation. Founded in 1979, the prize honors each year a living architect or architects whose work demonstrates talent and vision, as well as a contribution to humanity.

Isozaki is the eighth Japanese laureate, including Kenzo Tange, under whose apprenticeship Isozaki began his career after graduating from the prestigious University of Tokyo. Tange won the prize in 1987.

Isozaki, 87, was one of the first Japanese architects to build outside the country, and has been praised over his five-decade career for making a statement that transcends national boundaries through buildings that are simple in design, but also appear to redefine the feelings of space in people's surroundings.

Tom Pritzker, chairman of the Hyatt Foundation, called Isozaki's architecture "truly international."

"In a global world, architecture needs that communication," he said.

Isozaki's first international commission was the Museum of Contemporary Art in Los Angeles, which he worked on from 1981 through 1986. Isozaki said he was inspired by the red sandstone buildings of India.

Born on Japan's southwestern island of Kyushu, Isozaki says the destruction of World War II left a lasting impression while he was growing up, and helped him become an architect.

"I grew up on ground zero," he said, referring to the atomic bombing of Hiroshima, which lies across the shore from his hometown of Oita, which burned down in the war.

"It was in complete ruins, and there was no architecture, no buildings and not even a city," he said in remarks provided to the Associated Press by the foundation. "Only barracks and shelters surrounded me. So my first experience of architecture was the void of architecture, and I began to consider how people might rebuild their homes and cities."

Star of immigration film says detention feels like reprisal

MIAMI (AP)—An Argentine immigrant said his most recent detention feels like retaliation for starring in a new award-winning documentary about a group that infiltrated a for-profit detention center to expose injustices.

Claudio Rojas called The Associated Press on Tuesday from an immigrant detention facility. He said he has been thinking about what could have prompted the detention, but he hasn't been given a specific reason.

"I just shared my story. I don't feel like I said anything attacking them," Rojas said, referring to immigration enforcement agents. "But I have reasons to believe that this was reprisal."

Rojas, 53, said he sleeps on a cot in a place that looks like a military barrack with 160 other detainees. He was crushed because he wasn't going to be able to attend this week's premiere in Miami of "The Infiltrators," which won two awards at the 2019 Sundance Film Festival. He hadn't been able to travel to Utah for the film festival because of conditions set by the prior detention for overstaying his visa, which inspired the making of the film back in 2012.

"I am hanging in there, but I never thought I would end up in detention again," he said. "We know this is all a process. We are hoping for the best and trust God more than anything."

U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement spokesman Nestor Yglesias said he could not comment on the case.

The Miami screening of the documentary on Tuesday night did not escape controversy. Two producers said Miami Film Festival employees told them they would not introduce the film and moderate a Q&A panel afterward because they did not want to appear to be taking a political stance.

"Silence is a political act—perhaps the most dangerous one," Darren Dean, who has produced movies including 2017's "The Florida Project" and 2015's "Tangerine," wrote on Facebook.

The Miami Festival posted an apology on Facebook on Wednesday saying the incident "was an unfortunate misunderstanding and miscommunication" among personnel.

For the film, three activists got detained on purpose in 2012 to infiltrate the facility in Pompano Beach, Florida, find Rojas and document cases of others inside there. The purpose of the mission was to fight the claim by then-President Barack Obama that immigration enforcement focused on criminals. Many detained there had no criminal records.

Cabello's 'Havana' named 2018's best-selling digital song

LONDON (AP)—"Havana" conquered the world in 2018.

A global music industry group says Camila Cabello's song, featuring guest vocals from rapper Young Thug, is the year's best-selling digital single.

The International Federation of the Phonographic Industry says the Cuban-American musician's song has been streamed 2.6 billion times around the world—the equivalent of 19 million copies sold.

IFPI chief executive Frances Moore said Wednesday that "'Havana' truly was the stand-out hit of the year. Momentum behind the track continued to build and build at an extraordinary rate as it consistently topped charts and leading playlists."

"God's Plan" by Drake and "Shape of You" by Ed Sheeran were runners-up.

The organization announced last week that Canadian rapper Drake was the world's best-selling recording artist in 2018.

SHOWBIZ TIDBITS

Busch Gardens building world's fastest hybrid coaster

TAMPA, Fla. (AP)—Busch Gardens Tampa Bay says it's building the fastest and steepest hybrid roller coaster in the world. The Florida-based theme park said last week that the 200-foot (60-meter) coaster also will be North America's tallest hybrid roller coaster when it opens next year. A hybrid roller coaster has a mixture of wood and steel building materials. The coaster is a reincarnation of the park's Gwazi ride, an old wooden roller coaster that closed in 2015.

Jason Aldean to receive artist of the decade award at ACMs

NASHVILLE, Tenn. (AP)—Reigning entertainer of the year Jason Aldean will receive the artist of the decade award at this year's Academy of Country Music Awards in April. The ACM announced Wednesday that Aldean will join only five other honorees that have received the award since 1969, including Marty Robbins, Loretta Lynn, Alabama, Garth Brooks and George Strait. The award is given to a country artist or group who has dominated the genre over the decade through radio, digital media, sales and streaming, events, touring, television and artistic merit. With 13 ACM awards, Aldean has had four consecutive albums reach No. 1 on Billboard's 200 albums chart and 16 No. 1 singles on Billboard's country airplay chart, which tracks radio airplay. The ACMs will air live from Las Vegas on April 7 on CBS.

Tales of a Giant: Willie Mays' reflects in the book "24."

NEW YORK (AP)—Baseball great Willie Mays, who turns 88 this spring, has some advice to share. "24: Life Stories and Lessons from the Say Hey Kid" comes out Sept. 24, St. Martin's Press announced Wednesday. The book, co-authored by John Shea, will feature Mays' memories of the events and people that helped shape him and stories from fellow players who influenced Mays. There will be 24 chapters, in honor of his uniform number. Mays' previous books include the autobiographies "Say Hey" and "Willie Mays: My Life in and out of Baseball."

Taylor Swift offers '30 things I learned before turning 30'

NEW YORK (AP)—Taylor Swift says she turns off comments on social media to "block some of the noise."

That's one lesson the singer outlined Wednesday in an article in Elle magazine about 30 things she's learned before turning 30 this year.

Swift wrote that her biggest fear was going on tour after the Las Vegas concert shooting and the bombing at Manchester Arena in England. She said there was a tremendous amount of planning and expense to keep her fans safe.

She also says her fear of violence continues into her own life because of stalkers. She says people have to live bravely and not be ruled by "our fears."

As for love, Swift believes it's important to get to know someone before jumping in headfirst.

Swift will turn 30 on Dec. 13.

AP

In this June 22, 2018, file photo, singer Taylor Swift performs on stage in concert at Wembley Stadium in London.

Kelly interview becomes a spotlight moment for Gayle King

NEW YORK (AP)—Gayle King's composure with an emotional R. Kelly about the sex abuse charges against him may have garnered more attention than his comments on the matter.

King proved unflappable as a crying Kelly leaped up in anger. In the excerpt aired on "CBS This Morning" on Wednesday, she didn't flinch from challenging the singer as he denied multiple allegations that he sexually abused underage girls and was controlling in his relationships. She drew praise for her performance.

Her best friend Oprah Winfrey urged CBS News to make the full 80-minute conversation with Kelly available. CBS later announced that it will air a prime-time special on Friday based on the interview.

One tweeter, Yamiche Alcindor of the PBS "NewsHour" show, wrote that King was teaching a master's class in interviewing.

Music museums keeping Michael Jackson exhibits on display

NASHVILLE, Tenn. (AP)—Megastar Michael Jackson's musical legacy has been getting critically reappraised after a new documentary rekindled allegations of child sexual abuse, but at least two music museums in Detroit and Tennessee aren't scrubbing the King of Pop from their exhibits.

The National Museum of African American Music said Jackson will be included in an exhibit when the museum opens in downtown Nashville early 2020. The museum has previously released renderings of the building's design, which feature an image of Jackson on the exterior.

Robin Terry is chairwoman and CEO of Motown Museum in Detroit. She says their mission as a history museum is to share the stories and artifacts of the history of Motown, and "Michael Jackson's musical contributions remain part of the Motown story."

Wife is at breaking point with out-of-work attorney

DEAR ABBY: My husband and I moved from another state four years ago. He went a year and a half before getting a job after we moved. Now he's out of a job again.

It has been seven months. He sits on the sofa and lounges around the house. He looks briefly for alerts on new job postings. He does a few chores—not many.

He was an attorney, but he doesn't want to go back into the area of law he was in. He is getting no interviews, we're blowing through our savings and my job doesn't cover all of our expenses. I think he is unmotivated and lazy. At this point, I don't have much to say to him anymore except, "Did you look for a job today?"

It's sad what he has done to himself and his family. He won't discuss his career. I have told him just to get any job at this point, but then he gets very angry. I'm sure our children wonder why he is not working. I am afraid of the impact this will have on them and the example it sets.

I am close to hiring a divorce attorney. This is not the life I want. I'm emotionally and physically drained, and disgusted and embarrassed by his behavior. I have no one to talk to about this. We live in an expensive area with many educated professionals who don't behave like this. I'm sure if my friends and family knew, they would tell me to leave him. Help!

CRUSHED IN CALIFORNIA

DEAR CRUSHED: Even if your husband can't find employment, he could be doing volunteer work and making contacts that could be valuable. Rather than show the anger you understandably feel, continue to encourage him. Consider this: Could he be having a midlife crisis or a severe depression? Before divorce, I urge you to see that your husband is medically and psychologically evaluated to determine what's going on. If he refuses, it may then be time to review your options.

DEAR ABBY: I was recently hired as a chauffeur in New York City. There was never any mention of how people should address me.

We are given information about the client we will be meeting. Some clients prefer not to be addressed as "Sir" or "Ms. X." I was told to always address my passenger using formal introductions such as "Good morning, Ms. X," unless otherwise instructed. I have noticed that all of my clients address me by my first name (the name given to them by dispatch).

I find it odd that it appears to be acceptable for the client to be informal with me, but I must be formal with them. Is this common? Should I ask the front office to give only my surname?

INFORMAL IN NEW YORK

DEAR INFORMAL: It is VERY common. However, since it bothers you to be addressed by your first name, by all means ask the dispatcher to inform the clients that "Mr. Jones" will be their driver that day.

To receive a collection of Abby's most memorable – and most frequently requested – poems and essays, send your name and mailing address, plus check or money order for $8 (U.S. funds) to: Dear Abby – Keepers Booklet, P.O. Box 447, Mount Morris, IL 61054-0447. Shipping and handling are included in the price.

DEAR ABBY

By ABIGAIL VAN BUREN

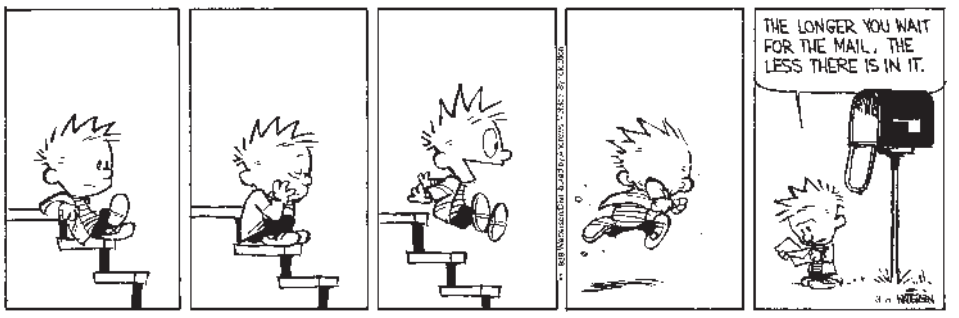
UNIVERSAL PRESS SYNDICATE

Dear Abby is written by Abigail Van Buren, also known as Jeanne Phillips, and was founded by her mother, Pauline Phillips. Contact Dear Abby at www.DearAbby.com or P.O. Box 69440, Los Angeles, CA 90069.

Pastimes

Calvin and Hobbes

By Bill Waterson

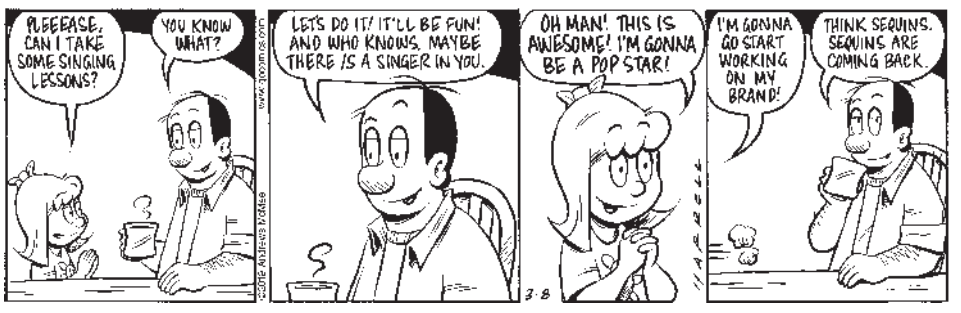


Garfield®

By Jim Davis

Adam@home

By Bryan Basset


PLEEEASE, CAN I TAKE SOME SINGING LESSONS?
YOU KNOW WHAT?
LET'S DO IT! IT'LL BE FUN! AND WHO KNOWS, MAYBE THERE IS A SINGER IN YOU.
OH MAN! THIS IS AWESOME! I'M GONNA BE A POP STAR!
I'M GONNA GO START WORKING ON MY BRAND!
THINK SEQUINS. SEQUINS ARE COMING BACK.
3-8

The Duplex

By Glenn McCoy

DOESN'T YOUR BUSINESS HAVE A POLICY WHERE IF YOU DON'T DELIVER THE PIZZA WITHIN A HALF-HOUR IT'S FREE?
YES.
WELL, I ORDERED A PIZZA AN HOUR AGO. WHEN WILL IT GET HERE.
IT WON'T.
WHAT DO YOU MEAN?
WE DON'T GIVE AWAY FREE PIZZA.

CROSSWORD

By Eugene Sheffer

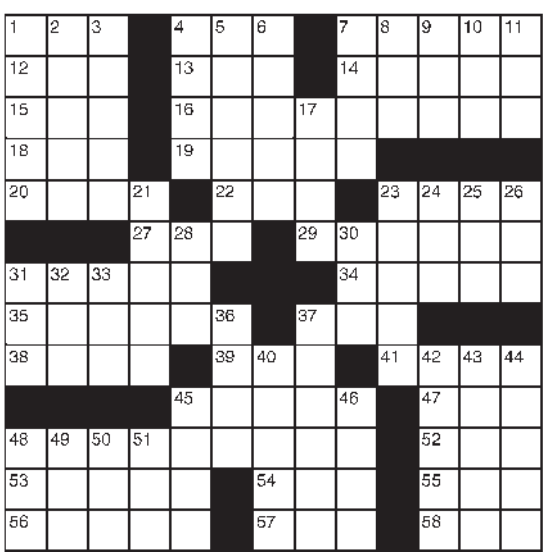
ACROSS
1 "Keep it down!"
4 Tax pro
7 Whizzes (by)
12 Horse chow
13 Owned
14 Emanations
15 Shred
16 Pennsylvania city
18 Guitar's kin
19 Symbol of freshness
20 Lancaster or Reynolds
22 "Blue Bloods" airer
23 Fly high
27 Flamenco cheer
29 Oliver Twist, for one
31 French composer Gabriel
34 Hilo hello
35 Snowman's nose
37 Links org.
38 Prop for Dr. House
39 Devilish laugh
41 Body powder
45 "I'm with you!"
47 Meadow
48 Pennsylvania city
52 Conditions
53 Boredom
54 Kimono sash
55 Packed away
56 "The Dapper Don"
57 Fixed
58 Snake's sound

DOWN
1 Bush
2 Japanese verse
3 High-strung
4 Sudan neighbor
5 Royal home
6 Extemporize
7 Madcap
8 "Shoo!"
9 Acapulco gold
10 Gullet
11 Capitol Hill VIP
17 Old U.S. gas brand
21 Baseball manager Joe
23 Pie-in-the-face sound
24 Discoverer's call
25 Satisfied sigh
26 Genetic letters
28 Summer sign
30 Cleaning cloth
31 TV watchdog org.
32 Small battery
33 Coffee vessel
36 Biblical pronoun
37 "Friends" role
40 Community spirit
42 Fake name
43 Some jabs
44 Attorney's load
45 Roman 1052
46 Skip
48 Plead
49 Rock's Brian
50 Potent stick
51 Shack

Solution time: 25 mins.

M	E	W		A	I	D	A		W	E	E	D
C	V	A		R	C	E	S		I	T	T	Y
W	A	S	H	T	U	B	S		S	A	T	E
		F	A	H		S	T	E	E	L	E	R
F	L	A	Y	U	P		S	A	G			
I	F	W		R	U	M		R	J	B	F	S
A	G	A	I		T	O	P		Y	A	I	I
T	O	Y	F	D		M	A	C		C	I	I
			T	I	S		R	O	C	K	E	T
R	E	V	I	E	W	S		D	O	W		
E	M	I	T		A	C	I	D	W	A	S	H
B		B	B		M	U	L	L		S	H	O
A	I	F	F		I	D	I	F		I	F	N

Yesterday's answer 3-8



STUMPED? For answers to today's crossword, call **1-900-226-5955**! 99¢ per minute, touch-tone/rotary phones. (18+ only.) A King Features service, NYC.

CELEBRITIES BORN ON THIS DAY: James Van Der Beek, 42; Freddie Prinze Jr., 43; Camryn Manheim, 58; Aidan Quinn, 60.

Happy Birthday: Keep your plans a secret to avoid interference. Personal changes can be made as long as you do the research and plan your actions skillfully. Leave nothing to chance, and be willing to adapt along the way. This is a year that needs to be planned before you share or take on something new. Preparation is essential. Your numbers are 6, 17, 21, 26, 30, 37, 48.

ARIES *(March 21-April 19):* Concentrate on tying up loose ends so you can head into a fun-filled weekend. A kind or romantic gesture will help you keep the peace and avoid an emotional situation that could escalate into an unwanted argument. ✪✪✪

TAURUS *(April 20-May 20):* Inconsistency will be your downfall. Don't second-guess what you are doing. Preparation and organization should help see you through any unexpected changes that come your way. Trust in your ability and skills, and finish what you start. ✪✪✪

GEMINI *(May 21-June 20):* Self-improvement projects are featured. Whether it's a change in direction, hobbies, educational pursuits or where you live, do what feels right and not what others are pressuring you to do. You will feel good about the decision you make. ✪✪✪✪

CANCER *(June 21-July 22):* Explore new possibilities and revisit old ideas. Mixing the old with the new will lead to a perfect mix. Success will be yours if you follow your intuition and proceed with your plans. Don't let your emotions hinder your progress. ✪✪

LEO *(July 23-Aug. 22):* Don't let anger get the better of you. Channel your energy into something that counts, and be the one to make a positive difference in your community. Use your charm to create a romantic scenario to please someone you love. ✪✪✪✪✪

VIRGO *(Aug. 23-Sept. 22):* You can get a lot done if you are resourceful. Call on people you know you can trust, and make the most out of whatever situation you face. Personal challenges should not include risks that could result in physical mishaps. ✪✪✪

LIBRA *(Sept. 23-Oct. 22):* Communication is golden. Say what's on your mind, and get to the bottom of any situation that could cause problems for you at home or with someone you love. Being frank, consistent and cooperative will encourage good results. ✪✪✪

SCORPIO *(Oct. 23-Nov. 21):* Consider what's good and what's not in your life, then do something about it. Striving to make your world a better place will encourage you to do better. Don't let anger take over when change is what's required. ✪✪✪

SAGITTARIUS *(Nov. 22-Dec. 21):* Take action, do your job and work toward your goal. Refuse to let anyone interfere. If you want to be successful, be responsible for your actions. Letting someone else take over will lead to disappointment. Believe in and trust yourself. ✪✪✪✪✪

EUGENIA LAST

THE LAST WORD IN ASTROLOGY

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CAPRICORN *(Dec. 22-Jan. 19):* Make the most with what you've got. If you want to make a change, get the approval of those affected by the decision you make first, or you will face an emotional situation that can stifle your plans. ✪✪

AQUARIUS *(Jan. 20-Feb. 18):* You'll need leverage if you want to win an argument. Consider not disputing what someone does or says, and choose to walk away and focus on self-improvement. Protect against insult and injury, and keep the peace. Offer love. ✪✪✪✪

PISCES *(Feb. 19-March 20):* Personal alterations should be carefully considered. Make sure your plans are solid before you venture down a path that could leave you feeling regret. A matter concerning a legal, financial or medical issue will show signs of instability. ✪✪✪

Birthday Baby: You are spontaneous, bold and adventuresome. You are engaging and open-minded.

To submit astrological questions to the "Dear Eugenia" column, visit Eugenialast.com, or join Eugenia on Twitter/Facebook/LinkedIn.

SUDOKU

Conceptis Sudoku *By Dave Green*

	6				2	
3		8		1		7
		6		3		
	1	6			9	8
	2	5			3	4
			3	5		
8			9	4		5
	4				6	

Difficulty Level ★★★★ 3/08

Sudoku is a number-placing puzzle based on a 9x9 grid with several given numbers. The object is to place the numbers 1 to 9 in the empty squares so that each row, each column and each 3x3 box contains the same number only once. The difficulty level of the Conceptis Sudoku increases from Monday to Saturday.

Yesterday's Answer

8	7	3	6	2	5	1	4	9
5	6	2	4	9	1	8	3	7
4	1	9	8	3	7	2	6	5
9	8	6	3	7	4	5	2	1
1	3	7	5	8	2	4	9	6
2	4	5	9	1	6	3	7	8
7	9	4	1	5	3	6	8	2
3	2	1	7	6	8	9	5	4
6	5	8	2	4	9	7	1	3

Difficulty Level ★★★

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WONDERWORD®

By DAVID OUELLET

HOW TO PLAY: All the words listed below appear in the puzzle — horizontally, vertically, diagonally and even backward. Find them, circle each letter of the word and strike it off the list. The leftover letters spell the WONDERWORD.

CALIFORNIA STATE ROUTE 78 Solution: 11 letters

I	A	E	T	O	W	N	A	B	R	U	B	U	S	N
N	A	R	P	O	S	O	C	E	A	N	S	I	D	E
O	W	I	I	I	U	T	D	O	E	N	J	O	Y	E
T	A	V	E	Z	L	R	A	Ⓓ	U	U	N	T	O	T
L	Y	E	L	V	O	E	Ⓤ	G	L	N	O	E	D	F
A	A	R	M	B	I	Ⓝ	F	I	E	G	T	G	I	I
S	W	S	O	L	Ⓔ	F	A	N	E	S	L	Y	D	F
O	S	I	R	Y	R	N	I	R	A	A	A	A	N	I
C	S	D	E	T	C	T	R	H	M	S	W	W	O	N
R	E	E	A	H	N	O	R	I	D	E	S	D	C	E
A	R	N	L	E	B	A	S	Y	A	T	N	A	S	W
M	P	G	P	A	L	O	V	E	R	D	E	O	E	I
N	X	R	A	M	O	N	A	E	K	E	E	R	C	T
A	E	L	C	E	N	T	R	O	A	L	O	B	I	C
S	E	I	R	E	W	E	R	B	Y	P	A	S	S	H

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Arizona, Away, Blythe, Border, Borrego, Breweries, Broadway, Bypass, Cibola, County, Creek, Dune, El Centro, Elmore, Enjoy, Escondido, Expressway, Fine, Glamis, I-Fifteen, I-Five, Julian, Laws, Oceanside, Palo Verde, Ramona, Rides, Riverside, Salton, San Felipe, San Marcos, Santa Ysabel, Serpentine, Stages, Suburban, Tour, Town, Witch

Yesterday's Answer: Prescription

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GANA CORPORATION
dba GANA DAYCARE
(8) Teachers
- Food Handlers Certificate
- CPR Certified
- Education background (College Diploma)
- At least 3-6 years experience
- 40 hours training per year

Please call 989-4972
Email resume to limjs5223@gmail.com

JOB VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT
Aquaville
(1) Manager
At Least 3 years experience
Knowledgeable in Marketing Strategies and oversee new trends in marine sports.

(1) Motor Boat Mechanic
At least 3 years experience
Knowledgeable in Mechanical Job

Contact Person: Adonis I. Santos
Contact Number: 323-2916

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American Couples and Non-American Couples are seeking your help to fulfill their dream to have a child. If you are female between the ages of 21 and 40, have had at least one natural child birth, and are interested in learning more about being a surrogate, please contact Evelyn @ 287-7338. Compensation is over $25,000 - $35,000. Can also receive $500 for referral of qualified candidate.

JOB VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT
AM MACHINE SHOP
is in need of:
(5) MACHINIST
At least 3 years experience
Knowledgeable in fabrication and modifying parts

(2) CAR AIRCON TECHNICIAN
At least 3 years experience

(2) WELDER
At least 3 years experience

Contact Person: Adonis I. Santos
Contact Number: 322-0102

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is in need of:
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At least 3 years experience
in Scuba Diving

(1) Motor Boat Mechanic
At least 3 years experience
Knowledgeable
in Mechanical Job

Contact Person: Adonis I. Santos
Contact Number: 323-2916

JOB VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT
AUTO MARINE INC.
is in need of:
(1) Diesel Engine Mechanic
At least 3 years experience
Knowledgeable in Diesel Engines
(2) Motor Boat Mechanic
At least 3 years experience
Knowledgeable in Mechanical Job
(1) Carpenter
(1) Maintenance Repairer
(1) Accountant
At least 3 years experience
Knowledgeable in Preparing Financial Status of the company

Contact Person: Adonis I. Santos
Contact Number: 323-2916

JOB VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT
Position: Accountant
Qualifications: Must be a College Degree with at least five year experience in General Accounting. Must be knowledgeable in the preparation of Financial Statements. Must be knowledgeable in Peach Tree and be able to work flexible hours. Salary will be based on qualifications and experience beginning at $700.00/semi-monthly. Interested applicants are requested to fill up the company's application form and submit with a copy of Driver's License at our office in Grandvrio Resort Saipan, Ground Floor no later than March 15, 2018.

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JOB VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT

Job Title: Financial Manager
Hours: Full-Time
Company: Yaong Corporation
Location: Unit 6 Rem Center, Gualo Rai, Saipan, MP 96950

Duties and Responsibilities:
Responsible for managing the accounting department, reviewing and ensuring the quality of the accounting department, ensuring the company's financial reports are produced in a timely manner and adhering to accepted accounting principles, and overseeing the internal audit process of the company. Responsible for the development of accounting policies, systems & procedures, special financial studies and other important aspects of the company's accounting department. Supervises and audits the work of accounting staff to ensure quality and timeliness, as well as compliance with the accounting standards and procedures of the company. Responsible for and engages in critical and confidential aspects of the company's accounting and financial records. Monitors and analyzes accounting data and produces financial reports or statements. Plans, budgets manpower, creates work schedule for the conduct of the company's annual fiscal year-end inventory count. Coordinates and completes annual audits with external auditors. Ensures monthly, quarterly and annual tax reporting, submissions, and compliances are met in timely manner.

Qualification Requirements:
A minimum of a Bachelor's degree in Accounting with five (5) years experience in the area of financial statement preparation, payroll, accounts payable and accounts receivable, inventory management including year-end physical inventory, fixed assets management, and accounts reconciliation. Experience working with an automated financial management system. Knowledge and ability in the use of personal computers and software applications. Strong organizational and analytical skills, the ability to maintain detailed records, and the ability to work effectively under pressure. Able to communicate both orally and in writing. Must be able to work a varied schedule including holidays and weekends when required. The applicant must successfully complete a background check.

To apply:
Please send complete and detailed resume to: Yaong Corporation Unit 6 Rem Ctr. Cheribiyan Dr Gualo Rai, Saipan, or mail to P.O. Box 505946, Saipan, MP 96950, or by e-mail to yaong.hr2@gmail.com. Those claiming degree credentials must send a copy with resume. Background check may be required prior to employment. Random drug testing may be required before employment and during employment.

JOB VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT

The Position: COOK

Job Description: Inspect and clean food preparation areas, such as equipment and work surfaces, or serving areas to ensure safe and sanitary food-handling practices; Ensure freshness of food and ingredients by checking for quality, keeping track of old and new items, and rotating stock; Ensure food is stored and cooked at correct temperature by regulating temperature of ovens, broilers, grills, and roasters; Season and cook food according to recipes or personal judgment and experience; Turn or stir foods to ensure even cooking; Observe and test foods to determine if they have been cooked sufficiently, using methods such as tasting, smelling, or piercing them with utensils; Portion, arrange, and garnish food, and serve foods to waiters or patrons; Weigh, measure. And mix ingredients according to recipes or personal judgment, using various kitchen utensils and equipment; Bake, roast, broil and steam meats, fish, vegetables, and other foods; Wash, peel, cut, and seed fruits and vegetables to prepare them for consumption; Coordinate and supervise work of kitchen staff; Estimate expected food consumption, requisition or purchase of supplies, or procure food from storage; Substitute for or assist other cooks during emergencies or rush periods; Consult with supervisory staff to plan menus, taking into consideration factors such as costs and special events' needs; Carve and trim meats such as beef, veal, ham, pork, and lamb for hot or cold service, or for sandwiches; Keep records and accounts; Plan and price menu items.

Minimum Qualifications: Must be at least high school graduate and with at least 24 months of relevant work experience as a cook. Knowledgeable in cooking and preparing Chinese cuisine.

Job Site: 1st Floor, Coco Building, Rte 319 DPL Derence Jack RD Garapan, Saipan, CNMI

How to Apply: Submit or mail application, Resume and credentials to:

THOMAS T. CHONG
Manager
American K&W Corporation
(Happiness Restaurant)
Office Address: 1st Floor, Coco Building, Rte 319 DPL Derence Jack RD Garapan, Saipan, CNMI
Mailing Address: PMB 978, Box 10001, Saipan, MP 96950
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Manfred: Slow free agent market is 'distributional problem'

BOSTON (AP)—It's not collusion, it's a "distributional problem" that has shut dozens of baseball players out of the free agent market this offseason, commissioner Rob Manfred said on Wednesday.

Speaking to a group of Boston business executives, Manfred said the percentage of revenue going to the players hasn't changed in the past 15 years or so. If players are unhappy about how it's being spent, Manfred said, he's happy to talk to them about solutions.

"The money that's going for them in aggregate is the same," he said at a meeting of the Boston College Chief Executives Club. "It may be that you (players) think some guys are getting too much, some guys are getting too little. You'd like to create additional opportunities. It's up to you to explain to us what you're looking for in terms of distribution of those dollars."

After years of growth, the total amount spent on player payroll dropped last year for the first time since 2010 and only the second time since 2002. What's bothered the players, though, has been the slow market for free agents like Bryce Harper and Manny Machado.

The lack of a bidding war for two of the game's stars left them waiting until after the start of spring training for other offers. A couple of dozen other free agents remain unsigned, and some players and agents accused owners of colluding to keep salaries down.

But Manfred preferred to look at the result: 10 years and $300 million for Machado, and 13 years and $330 million for Harper.

"In case you missed it, we did spend 600 million bucks—630 to be exact—on two players last week. Set some new records," Manfred said in an on-stage conversation with Red Sox president Sam Kennedy. "Players are still getting these mega-contracts."

Manfred said he would be willing to discuss changes now, even though the collective bargaining agreement doesn't expire until after the 2021 season.

"But (players) have to identify for us what it is that you see as the problem in the system," he said.

Manfred's comments came as owners and players neared an agreement to allow teams to carry an extra player for most of the season starting in 2020 and for other changes to the way rosters are managed. The deal would include a limit on September call-ups—lowering the maximum roster size from 40 players to 28 — and on the number of pitchers would be designed to end the parade of relievers that can cause games to run long. Baseball also agreed not pursue a pitch clock through the 2021 season.

People familiar with the negotiations discussed details of the agreement with The Associated Press on condition of anonymity because the agreement had not yet been finalized.

"Baseball, like every other institution, has to thoughtfully approach change to address concerns that fans raise," Manfred said. "One of the things that our research tells us is that the length of the games is an issue and one of the causes of that is relief pitching changes. And I think we have to be open to thinking about changes in that area."

Players have proposed changes such as expanding the designated hitter to the National League and altering the amateur draft to discourage teams from tanking in order to improve their draft position.

"It's always important to make small deals that allow you to address bigger issues," Manfred said. "And we're working hard to do that."

Baseball announced in December a new deal that would allow Cuban players to sign major league contracts without defecting. The agreement came despite President Donald Trump's pledge to undo President Barack Obama's 2014 decision expand U.S-Cuba relations.

Manfred said the previous administration was more consistent to deal with.

"It has been more challenging in terms of working with the Trump administration," Manfred said. "We've worked with them already on several projects. It's been a little difficult but generally positive as well."

AP

Los Angeles Angels center fielder Mike Trout eyes but misses snagging a fly ball from Chicago Cubs' Willson Contreras for an error in the first inning of a spring training baseball game Tuesday, March 5, 2019, in Tempe, Ariz. Contreras, who doubled, scored after advancing on the error.

Harper can't recruit Trout, for now

BOSTON (AP)—Major League Baseball is investigating whether new Philadelphia slugger Bryce Harper committed a tampering violation when he lobbied for Mike Trout, who isn't a free agent for two more seasons, to join the Phillies.

Speaking to a group of Boston business executives on Wednesday, commissioner Rob Manfred said he doesn't want players recruiting other players, a practice that has been winked at in the NBA. Manfred said he didn't want to see the same thing happen in baseball.

"Given our rules, players recruiting other players who are still under contract or under reserve to another club is a rule violation," he said at the Boston College Chief Executives Club. "So, obviously not anxious to see that."

Harper signed a $330 million, 13-year contract with the Phillies last week, and said at his introductory news conference: "There's another guy in about two years that comes off the books. We'll see what happens with that."

That would likely not be tampering, but he may have crossed the line when he told Philadelphia radio station 94WIP: "If you don't think I'm gonna call Mike Trout to come to Philly in 2020, you're crazy."

A two-time AL MVP with the Los Angeles Angels, Trout grew up near Philadelphia, attended the Phillies victory parade in 2008 as a 17-year-old and has season tickets for the Eagles. The 27-year-old outfielder is set to become a free agent after the 2020 season.

"For me, I can be able to talk to Trout, or whoever it is, big-name free agent or whoever wants to come to Philly or is thinking about coming to Philly, I can say 'Hey, this is the place to be," Harper said in the radio interview. "This is where the fans are great, ownership understands it, our manager is awesome."

Baseball Rule 3(k) prohibits "negotiations or dealings respecting employment, either present or prospective, between any player, coach or manager and any Major or Minor League Club other than the Club with which the player is under contract."

Manfred wouldn't say whether he thought Harper's comments constituted tampering.

"We're in the process of gathering information about the comments and the context in which they were made," he said. "

Coach defends Murray after combine critique

INDIANAPOLIS—The buzz around the NFL is whether the Arizona Cardinals will give up on quarterback Josh Rosen and pick Kyler Murray with the No. 1 overall pick in the upcoming draft.

Murray is coming off one of the most prolific seasons we've ever seen from a college quarterback en route to a Heisman Trophy and College Football Playoff appearance. But a recent report from NFL Network's Charley Casserly relayed some concerns about Murray's leadership and processing ability after his NFL combine interviews.

Oklahoma coach Lincoln Riley praised Murray's leadership qualities during the season, and he was quick to defend his former quarterback against this latest report. Riley joined "The Dan Patrick Show" on Wednesday and dismissed the comments.

"Not surprising. That's just the fact that it's that time of year," Riley said on the show. "People are going to say different things. I just hate that people go out, make these comments and you never even talk to the two people that have actually coached this kid.

"You never talk to teammates. You went off what one team said, which is probably a smokescreen—knowing how this draft deal works with all the different back and forth. But this kid—Kyler was a tremendous leader for us. A tremendous leader ... And as far as processing offense, he just had the greatest single season in the history of college football, so I think he can process just fine."

And Riley made a valid point. Every leaked comment by an anonymous "team source" heading into the draft is done with a particular motive. Riley believed the comments were a smokescreen, and he was probably right. And it likely won't be the last time a questionable critique of Murray makes its way into an insider's report.

Meanwhile, Jamie Collins' two-and-a-half-year run with the Cleveland Browns is over.

The team announced Wednesday it had released the veteran linebacker.

"We want to thank Jamie for his contributions to the Cleveland Browns," general manager John Dorsey said in a statement. "These types of decisions are never easy. Jamie is a respected veteran player in this league and we wish him the best as he continues his career."

Collins, 29, joined the Browns in 2016 via a midseason trade from the New England Patriots. He started all 16 games last season and led the team with 104 tackles, but the Browns saved $9.25 million by moving on from him.

A second-round pick by the Patriots in 2013 out of Southern Mississippi, Collins was a Pro Bowl selection in 2015.

McIlroy doing everything right but winning

ORLANDO, Fla. (AP)—Rory McIlroy has few complaints about the state of his game, only the results.

That doesn't bother him, either.

At least not yet.

Behind him are 12 months since his last victory in the Arnold Palmer Invitational, a title he defends this week against a typically strong field at Bay Hill that no longer includes Tiger Woods as he copes with a neck strain.

Ahead of McIlroy is the Masters, his fifth opportunity to join the most elite group in golf by completing the career Grand Slam.

"Playing well," McIlroy said Wednesday after a frigid pro-am at Bay Hill. "Just seems like one or two people play a little better than me every week I tee it up. I'm in a good place with my game, doing everything pretty well, and just got to try and keep continuing on that path. And if I keep working on these things and keep doing the right things, hopefully sooner or later I'll turn all these good finishes into a win."

McIlroy has opened the year with four straight top-five finishes, his longest streak on the PGA Tour. He was runner-up two weeks ago in Mexico City, where Dustin Johnson overwhelmed everyone for a five-shot victory. He finished three back at Riviera, and he was in the final group at Kapalua.

His best stretch of golf might have been the end of 2011 and the start of 2012, when McIlroy finished in the top five in 11 out of 12 tournaments, two of them victories. That ended at Augusta National when he tied for 40th.

The Florida swing is when the Masters starts to come into view for everyone, especially McIlroy.

AP

In this Friday, Feb. 15, 2019 file photo, Rory McIlroy of Northern Ireland hits his second shot in the rain on the 18th hole during the second round of the Genesis Open golf tournament at Riviera Country Club in Los Angeles. McIlroy begins his road to the Masters this week at the Arnold Palmer Invitational at Bay Hill.

A green jacket is all he needs to complete the career Grand Slam, and it's been on his mind since he won the British Open at Royal Liverpool in 2014. He has finished in the top 10 at the last four Masters, each time finishing six shots behind. Last year might have been the toughest because he played in the final group with Patrick Reed, three shots behind, and faded to a 74.

There is no sense of panic. In fact, the 29-year-old from Northern Ireland even managed to cite Abraham Lincoln, who lost several elections over three decades.

"He wound up being president of the United States," McIlroy said. "So I still got a bit of time."

That time will come soon enough.

For now, McIlroy is at a course he has come to enjoy since he first played the Arnold Palmer Invitational in 2015 and dined with the King. Even with such a short history, the connection between Palmer and McIlroy was strong.

PGA Tour Commissioner Jay Monahan recalls being at lunch with Palmer at Bay Hill in 2015 when McIlroy stopped by to say hello. Palmer offered McIlroy whatever he needed, from tickets to ice cream. McIlroy replied: "Mr. Palmer, thanks to you, I have everything I could ever need in my life. I'm all set."

Palmer teared up at the words.

On the day Palmer died—Sept. 25, 2016—McIlroy won the Tour Championship and the FedEx Cup. His next victory was 18 months later at Bay Hill, the course Palmer bought, nurtured and turned into the signature sporting event in Orlando.

McIlroy recalls telling Palmer when he first played Bay Hill that he would make an effort to return every year.

"Now that I'm a past champion of this event, it obviously means a little bit more to me again," he said.

McIlroy, who already has four majors as part of his 22 victories worldwide, is one of the top names that gives Bay Hill some pop. Justin Rose and three-time major champion Brooks Koepka are in the field, both with a chance to replace Dustin Johnson at No. 1 in the world. Johnson is not playing this week.

Rose is among the ambassadors this year, a program that began after Palmer died. He hasn't played since the Saudi International at the end of January, planning all along to take off most of February because of the compact schedule leading to the Masters, and through the end of August.

Rose has won three times in the last 10 months, including at Torrey Pines this year. A year ago, he was paired with McIlroy in the final round when McIlroy put together a furious charge to close with a 64.

FIFA's record finances reignites World Cup pay parity debate

LONDON (AP)—When world soccer executives receive FIFA's annual report this year, they will see that $753,000 is funding a women's league in Colombia, $588,197 is helping female players in New Zealand and girls in Botswana are benefiting from $341,600.

That's merely a snapshot of the $270.3 million that the body that governs world soccer has invested in projects worldwide between 2016 and 2018.

Four years since police raided the hotel and offices of soccer officials and FIFA's Zurich headquarters in 2015 in a scandal that threatened the organization's existence, FIFA is awash with cash. People with knowledge of FIFA's finances told The Associated Press that in the four-year period covering the 2018 World Cup, FIFA's reserves soared to $2.74 billion and revenue rose to $6.4 billion. The people spoke on condition of anonymity because the financial results remain confidential.

Now, the organization is eager to show that handouts no longer line the pockets of its top managers. Rather, the money is being used to build stadiums, train coaches and provide more playing opportunities. But while the annual report underscores FIFA's financial vitality, it also highlights the glaring disparity between men and women's soccer.

Last summer's World Cup is a good example: France banked $38 million from FIFA for winning the championship, but the women's champion this July will earn just $4 million.

U.S. coach Jill Ellis, who is leading her team's title defense in France, said she is disappointed with the financial rewards.

"You want to make sure there is a fair apportionment of winnings going out," Ellis said.

Most upsetting to critics is the fact that the financial gulf appears to be growing. FIFA has doubled the overall prize money fund to $30 million since the last Women's World Cup in Canada in 2015. But that total amount is less than the $40 million increase that men's World Cup prize money will get in 2022 — for a total of $440 million in prize money.

"The difference between the men's and women's prize money is ridiculous," said Tatjana Haenni, who stepped down as FIFA head of women's soccer in 2017. "It's really disappointing the gap between the men's and women's World Cups got bigger. It sends the wrong message."

The world players' union said the disparity is a reflection of FIFA's priorities as well as of the status of women's soccer

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LeBron passes Jordan, but Nuggets beat Lakers

AP
Los Angeles Lakers forward LeBron James, right, shoots and scores as Denver Nuggets forward Torrey Craig, center, defends and center Nikola Jokic watches during the first half of an NBA basketball game Wednesday, March 6, 2019, in Los Angeles.

LOS ANGELES (AP)—Will Barton scored 23 points, Gary Harris added 19 and the Denver Nuggets snapped their three-game losing streak with a 115-99 victory over the Los Angeles Lakers on Wednesday night despite LeBron James' move into fourth place on the NBA's career scoring list.

James scored 31 points and surpassed Michael Jordan's 32,292 career points on a driving layup during the second quarter. His Lakers erased most an early 23-point deficit before fading in the fourth quarter of their fourth consecutive loss.

Denver (43-21) blew all but two points of its huge early lead, but Harris and Nikola Jokic contributed key baskets down the stretch of the Nuggets' first win of March.

Jamal Murray scored 19 points and Jokic had 12 points, 17 rebounds and eight assists for the Nuggets, who had lost four straight to the Lakers on the road despite their growth into an elite NBA team during that time period.

JaVale McGee added 16 points for the Lakers, who played without injured starters Brandon Ingram, Kyle Kuzma and Lonzo Ball.

After James barreled to the basket and hit a layup while being fouled for his milestone points, the Staples Center crowd gave a rousing ovation to the superstar who joined the Lakers last summer after 15 NBA seasons spent with Cleveland and Miami.

The 34-year-old James, who idolized Jordan while watching the Bulls star in his prime, began the night needing 13 points to pass one of his heroes. James now trails only Kareem Abdul-Jabbar (38,387 points), Karl Malone (36,928) and Kobe Bryant (33,643).

The Nuggets' sophisticated offense ran wild early against a patchwork Lakers lineup, taking a huge lead in the first half despite James' big basket.

Ingram missed his second straight game with a shoulder injury, and Kuzma joined him after spraining his ankle Monday. The Lakers already were without Ball, who has been out with a sprained ankle and a bone bruise for six weeks.

Celtics 111, Kings 109

In Sacramento, Gordon Hayward made up for a costly foul by hitting a tiebreaking shot with 2 seconds to play that helped the Boston Celtics overcome the absence of injured star Kyrie Irving in a victory over the Kings.

Hayward fouled Buddy Hield on a 3-point attempt with 7.6 seconds left, allowing the Kings to tie the game. Boston had no timeouts and went the length of the floor to score on Hayward's bucket.

Harrison Barnes then missed a 3 at the buzzer, giving the Celtics their second win in two nights to start a four-game California swing.

One night after beating two-time defending champion Golden State by 33 points to open the trip, the Celtics managed to hold off the feisty Kings with Irving sidelined by a bruised left thigh.

Wizards 132, Mavericks 123

In Washington, Bradley Beal dunked over 7-foot-2 Salah Mejri and then stared him down in the most dramatic part of a 30-point performance as the Wizards beat the Dallas Mavericks.

Beal added eight assists and seven rebounds as Washington beat Dallas at home after losing nine in a row when hosting the Mavericks.

Trevor Ariza scored 22 and Jabari Parker 20 for the Wizards.

Rookie Luka Doncic had 31 points, 11 rebounds and seven assists for the Mavs.

Spurs 111, Hawks 104

In Atlanta, LaMarcus Aldridge scored 32 points and San Antonio pulled away from the Hawks in the closing minutes for its fourth straight victory.

Derrick White scored seven straights points, putting San Antonio ahead to stay with a 3-pointer before hitting two straight shots in the lane. He finished with 18 points and nine assists.

Trae Young led the Hawks with 24 points but made only eight of 24 shots, going 1 for 7 from beyond the arc.

Heat 91, Hornets 84

In Charlotte, Kelly Olynyk had 22 points and 11 rebounds, Hassan Whiteside added 18 points and 15 rebounds off the bench and the Miami Heat defeated the Hornets to break a tie for the eighth spot in the Eastern Conference.

Olynyk was 8 of 14 from the field, including 5 of 7 from beyond the 3-point arc as Miami won its third straight game.

Dwyane Wade had a rough night shooting, going 4 of 15 from the field and missed both free-throw attempts. He finished with eight points and six assists. After the game, Charlotte's Kemba Walker exchanged jerseys with Wade at midcourt.

Pistons 131, Timberwolves 114

In Detroit, Andre Drummond had 31 points and 15 rebounds and surging Pistons beat Minnesota.

Drummond posted his 16th straight double-double—the second-longest streak in franchise history. He set the record with 18 last season.

Luke Kennard added 21 points for the Pistons (32-31), who moved above .500 for the first time since they got to 15-14 by beating the Timberwolves in overtime on Dec. 19. Detroit has won 10 of 12, including six straight at home.

Nets 113, Cavaliers 107

In New York, Spencer Dinwiddie scored 12 of his 28 points in the fourth quarter and Brooklyn beat Cleveland for its second straight win.

D'Angelo Russell added 25 points for the Nets.

Kevin Love had 24 points and 16 rebounds for the Cavaliers, who had won four of six since that loss to the Nets in the final game before the All-Star break. David Nwaba added 22 points.

Jazz 114, Pelicans 104

In New Orleans, Derrick Favors scored 25 points, Rudy Gobert added 22 points and 13 rebounds, and the Utah Jazz defeated the Pelicans.

Donovan Mitchell had 22 points, and Joe Ingles had 10 points and 10 assists for the Jazz, who won for the second time in New Orleans this season and exacted a measure of revenge for the Pelicans' surprising comeback victory in Utah on Monday night.

Julius Randle scored 23 points for the Pelicans, who had won their previous three games—all on the road—before seeing their streak end in their return home. Anthony Davis scored 16 points and blocked two shots in 21 minutes.

Bulls 108, 76ers 107

In Chicago, Zach LaVine scored 39 points and hit the go-ahead layup in the closing seconds to lead the Chicago Bulls to a victory over the Philadelphia 76ers.

LaVine scored 13 in the fourth quarter as the Bulls wiped out a 10-point deficit on their way to one wild victory.

They trailed 107-106 after Jimmy Butler hit two free throws for Philadelphia with 4.8 seconds remaining. After a timeout, LaVine inbounded to Lopez and got fouled as he cut past Mike Scott for the go-ahead layup with 1.6 seconds remaining.

LaVine missed the free throw, but the Bulls came away with the win after one more twist. He broke up Ben Simmons' inbounds pass to Butler underneath the 76ers' basket. Both teams walked off the court and fans started to file out of the arena. The problem was, the horn sounded before anyone touched the ball.

After a review, the referees put 0.5 seconds back on the clock. But with one more chance, Philadelphia came up short when the inbounds pass skipped off Butler's hands.

Bogut rejoining Warriors, adds depth at center

OAKLAND, Calif. (AP)—The Golden State Warriors signed Andrew Bogut, who is expected to rejoin the team next week and add depth heading into the playoffs.

The Warriors made the announcement Wednesday, after Bogut was cleared by his Australian team, the Sydney Kings. The Warriors are without Damian Jones, who needed surgery after injuring his left pectoral muscle in December.

"He's still got something to offer," coach Steve Kerr said. "Whatever role that means, he's ready to accept and take on the challenge and we're excited to have him."

Golden State has struggled defensively, losing in embarrassing fashion at home to Boston 128-95 on Tuesday night, so Bogut's 7-foot presence in the paint could be timely.

He played on the Warriors' 2015 champion team and the 73-win team the following season that lost in Game 7 of the NBA Finals to LeBron James and the Cavaliers.

"I think it will be great for us to have Bogut back," Draymond Green said after Wednesday's practice, when the two-time defending champions met and re-established their goals. "We all know what Bogut brings to the table, so I think it will overall help us, especially going down this stretch where it's going to be a tough run to try to three-peat.

The 2005 No. 1 overall draft pick out of Utah, Bogut appeared in 23 games for the Lakers last season and made five starts. He averaged 1.6 points and 3.4 rebounds in 9.4 minutes.

Bogut was injured in Game 5 of the 2016 NBA Finals and missed the rest of the series. Then he got traded to Dallas to create salary cap room for Golden State to sign Kevin Durant.

Carol competes in 3 tourneys in Morocco

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
roselyn_monroyo@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The CNMI's Carol Lee has started her three-tournament tour in Morocco.

The junior player first competed in the Mediterranée Avenir/J1 Casablanca and won her opening singles match last Tuesday at the Club Olympique Casablanca. She swept Morocco's Yasmine Kabba, 6-4, 6-2, to march into the Round of 32 of the Grade 1 event that awards 280 ranking points to the singles champion.

In the second round, Lee was paired against Slovenia's Pia Lovric and the former battled the latter toe-to-toe in the first set before losing, 6-7 (5). Lovric then took advantage of the gassed out Lee in the second set to cruise to a 6-0 triumph.

The Commonwealth bet also played in the doubles contest of the J1 Casablanca and teamed up with Poland's Aleksandra Julia Jelen. The Lee-Jelen duo was pitted against the No. 2 seed Francesa Curmi of Malta and Sada Nahimana of Burundi and the latter pair won, 7-5, 6-2.

After the Mediterranée Avenir, Lee will play in the ITF/CAT North African Circuit, starting this weekend at the Oceanic Club Casablancais. The competition will run until March 23 and it is a Grade 3 event where as much as 100 ranking points (singles) and 75 (doubles) can be won.

For her third and last tournament in Morocco, Lee will travel to Mohammedia for the Raquette D'Or 2008, another Grade 3 event that will take place at the Royale Tennis Club de Mohammedia from March 25 to 30.

The 17-year-old player is competing in a series of Juniors ITF events as part of her activities at the International Tennis Federation/Confederation of African Tennis Regional Training Centre.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO
Carol Lee, seen here playing in the 2019 Australian Open Juniors, is in Morocco for a series of Juniors ITF tournaments.

Azarenka sets showdown with Serena at Indian Wells

CALIFORNIA—Two-time Indian Wells champion Victoria Azarenka shook off a slow start to beat Vera Lapko 6-2, 6-3 on Wednesday and set up a second-round meeting with long-time rival Serena Williams at the BNP Paribas Open.

Azarenka, a former world number one now ranked 48th in the world, said she started a little too passive in dropping the first two games against her fellow Belarussian, but roared back to seal the win with ease.

She was looking forward to taking on 10th-seeded Williams, who like all the seeds in the combined WTA and ATP Masters event has a first-round bye.

The American has won 17 of their 21 prior encounters, but Azarenka won their most recent clash—in the 2016 Indian Wells final.

"Of course it's going to be a very special match for us," she said of their first clash since both became mothers.

"We have such a big history, it's going to be really special. She motivates me, she inspires me, she pushes me to be better," Azarenka said of Williams.

The opening day of women's main draw play saw highly touted teenagers Bianca Andreescu and Amanda Ansimova reached the second round.

Canada's Andreescu, 18, rallied from a set down to beat Romanian Irina-Camelia Begu 6-7 (3/7), 6-3, 6-3.

"For me, the ending is the most important, so I'm really glad I pulled through," said Andreescu, who has won 22 matches this season including qualifying and main draw.

She has climbed steadily in the rankings, rising from 107th to start the year to 60th.

"Mentally... I was like, I might as well go for my shots, and see where that leads me and that's what I did, and it worked," said Andreescu, who booked a second-round meeting with 32nd seed Dominika Cibulkova.

MP

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ond game at 7:15pm. Kanoa is looking to bounce back from a loss to MP United, which target its second win as it squares off against the debuting Matansa in the first match at 5:30pm at the NMISTC.

Over at the TSL Sports Complex in Gualo Rai, the pair of girls U19 games will also have Matansa battling MP United in the curtain-raiser at 5:30pm and TanHoldings challenging Kanoa in the second tiff at 6:40pm.

Back at the Koblerville facility tomorrow, the girls U16 triple-header will have Matansa dueling Southern United, Kanoa meeting TanHoldings, and MP United colliding with Paire. In the boys U15, three matches will also be played this Saturday with the first two featuring MP United against TanHolding at 8am and Matansa versus Shirley's at 9:30am. The last game at 11am will be between Kanoa-2 and Kanoa-1.

PAIRE

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adding a pair, and Jersh Angeles and Rodwealth Espana contributed one apiece. TanHoldings earned the blowout win after pulling away in the second half, which ended with the winning squad ahead by only one off Idaka's goal in the 21st minute.

Idaka made it back-to-back with his shot in the 62nd minute and TanHoldings went on to spend the next 20-plus minute of the second half toying around the defense of KFAS, as it scored one goal after another. Esalan handed TanHoldings its third goal in the 66th minute and got his second in the 80th, while Idaka posted the squad's last two goals in a span of two minutes (86th and 88th). Espana and Angeles hit the board in the 67th and 72 minute, respectively.

In the Paire-Matansa lopsided match, Daniel Agulto starred for the former after registering four goals. He had his first two goals in back-to-back fashion after scoring in the 20th and 23rd minute and he did it again in the 79th and 85th. Paire's two other goals came from Joe Miller in the 39th minute and Matt Epstinez in the 43rd.

Meanwhile, Pacific Islands Club prevailed against the CNMI Women's National Team, 4-2, while Shirley's FC and Sun Palace engaged in a draw, 5-5, in Division B action.

Brandon Tenorio had a hat trick for PIC after scoring in the 16th, 47th, and 78th minute, while Bailey Spaeth delivered the other goal for the winning crew in the 29th. Jannah Casarino and Gillian Villagomez fired the two goals for the CNMI Women's with the former hitting her target in the 29th minute and the latter in the 60th.

In the other Division B match, Jack Phan nailed a pair for Shirley's FC, including the equalizer six minutes before the game wrapped up. Phan's other goal was made in the 10th minute, while Shirley's got one each from Ariel Jinang and Jedidah Peteru for a shaky 3-2 halftime lead.

Sun Palace kept pace with Shirley's in the first half, thanks to Feng Yu's pair of goals. Sun Palace then grabbed the lead early in the first half with Yu adding one more goal and two of his teammates also scoring. However, Sun Palace handed Shirley's an own goal in the 70th minute and allowed Phan to score in the 84th to settle for the draw.

UNBEATEN

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three runs each.

The Lady Ayuyus, on the other hand, got runs in the final inning from Camille Muna, DeFaustina Camacho, Pauline Bondoc, and Selina Taitano.

With their 4-0 mark, the Patriots-Angels are still in first place in the team standings, while the Lady Ayuyus are ranked third after dropping to a 1-3 mark.

Balas 28, Niners 7

In the other girls division game, Balas dominated the Niners to finish the match in just five innings.

The Niners rushed out of the gates with five runs in the first inning, but slowed down after the opener, as they mustered only two runs in the last four to hand the easy win to Balas.

Balas' consistency on offense propelled them to victory, as it scored at least six runs each in four of the five innings played.

Balas was clinging to a 7-5 lead after one complete inning when it scored seven runs in the second to start controlling the match. The Niners were shutdown in the second inning, while Balas kept going.

Angel Deleon Guerrero, Apple Tyquenco, Cheyenne Sablan, Jaime Pangelinan, Kialani Aguon, Maria Igitol, and Tamisha Sablan crossed home plate for the Balas in the pivotal second inning for their 14-5 advantage. Pangelinan, Sablan, and Tyquenco led Balas with four runs apiece, while Igitol contributed three.

With the win, Balas now has a 3-1 record for second place behind the Patriots-Angels, while the Niners are at the bottom of the field with their 0-4 card.

ROBY N. PAMINTUAN
A Lady Ayuyus runner heads home during their game against the Patriots-Angels in the Natibu Sports Association Girls Fastpitch and Boys Slow-pitch Softball League last Sunday at the Capital Hill Ballfield.

BOYS DIVISION
Braves 13, Blue Jays 6

In the only game played in the boys division, the Braves outclassed the Blue Jays in seven innings.

Clutching a slight advantage over the Blue Jays at the bottom of the fourth inning, 7-4, the Braves marched away with the win after making six more runs in the final three innings against two from their opponents.

Tony and Miguel Leveque finished with two runs apiece in the last three frames for the Braves, while J.J. Sablan and Harry Moses chipped in one each.

The Braves remained atop the pecking order with their 3-1 record, while the Blue Jays fell to an even 2-2 slate.

In the other boys game, the Falcons were awarded the outright victory after the Ayuyus were unable to field the required six-player minimum.

The Falcons improved to a 2-2 card and are tied for second place with the Blue Jays, while the Ayuyus spiraled to last place with a 1-3 card.

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Patriots-Angels still unbeaten

ROBY N. PAMINTUAN
The Patriots-Angels huddle after beating the Lady Ayuyus, 14-10, during their game in the Natibu Sports Association Girls Fast-pitch and Boys Slow-pitch Softball League last Sunday at the Capital Hill Ballfield.

By ROBY N. PAMINTUAN
pamintuanroby@gmail.com
CORRESPONDENT

The Patriots-Angels kept their perfect record after edging out the Lady Ayuyus, 14-10, during their game in the Natibu Sports Association Girls Fast-pitch and Boys Slow-pitch Softball League last Sunday at the Capital Hill Ballfield.

The Patriots-Angels' winning streak was not secured until the last inning—bottom of the sixth—where they had to withstand the Lady Ayuyus' final push. The sixth inning started with the Patriots-Angels holding on to a 9-6 lead, which they upped to eight, 14-6, after a five-run top of the sixth. However, the Lady Ayuyus threatened to mount a comeback, making four runs at the bottom of the sixth before falling short and allowing the Patriots-Angels to maintain their unbeaten record.

Chanel Espinosa, Christy Aldan, Kiana Aldan, Mariko Laniyo, and Richelle Ramon scored runs for the Patriots-Angels at the top of the sixth inning. Ramon and Kiana Aldan finished the match with

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MP United, Kanoa triumph

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
roselyn_monroyo@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Kanoa Football Club and MP United FC started off on the right foot after downing their respective foes in the co-ed U12A division of the 2019 NMIFA Spring Youth League last Saturday at the NMI Soccer Training Center in Koblerville.

MP United was paired against TanHoldings FC at Pitch 1 and cruised to a 7-1 victory, while Kanoa outclassed Shirley's FC in the other game at Pitch 2, 3-1.

Five different players scored for Kanoa with Su Woo leading the way for the winning team after making three goals. Izeah Jolo chipped in two goals, while Jairus Santos and Paul Lizama contributed one apiece. Santos lit up the board for Kanoa first with his conversion in the 11th minute, while Jolo made it a 2-0 advantage for their team two minutes later. Jolo's other goal was recorded in the 48th minute of the one-hour match, while Woo scored in the 15th, 41st, and 45th minute. Lizama dropped his goal in the 22nd minute, while TanHoldings' lone goal (match report did not indicate the name of the scorer) in the game came in the second half.

In the other match in the division, Kelly McCallion towed MP United to its season-opening win after drilling a pair of goals.

All of MP United's goals were posted in the first half with McCallion hitting the board in the eighth and 13th minute, while Moshe Sikkel registed the team's first goal after finding the back of the net right in the third.

MP United will go for win No. 2 tomorrow when it duels TanHoldings at Pitch 2, while Kanoa is also aiming for its second straight victory when it faces Shirley's at Pitch 1.

Games in the boys U15 and girls U16 will also resume this Saturday, while the boys U18 and girls U19 (futsal) will have their second week matches tonight.

In the boys U18 division, TanHoldings, which won over the CNMI Boys U15 National Team in the opener, will meet Kanoa in the sec-

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CONTRIBUTED PHOTO
An MP United Football Club player, right, dribbles away from Shirley's FC defenders during their co-ed U12A division game in the 2019 NMIFA Spring Youth League last Saturday at the NMI Soccer Training Center in Koblerville.

Paire, TanHoldings rout foes; PIC wins

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO
A Pacific Islands Club player kicks the ball while being chased by defenders from the CNMI Women's National Team during their Division B game in the 2019 Spring Men's M-League last Sunday at the NMI Soccer Training Center.

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
roselyn_monroyo@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

TanHoldings Football Club and Paire FC stood out in the opening week of the 2019 Spring Men's M-League last Sunday at the NMI Soccer Training Center.

Paire whipped Matansa in the first Division A game, 6-0, while TanHoldings clobbered Korean Football Association on Saipan in the other opening match in the group. 8-0.

New recruit Joji Idaka announced his entry to the league by scoring four goals for TanHoldings, while Mark Esalan backed him up after

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